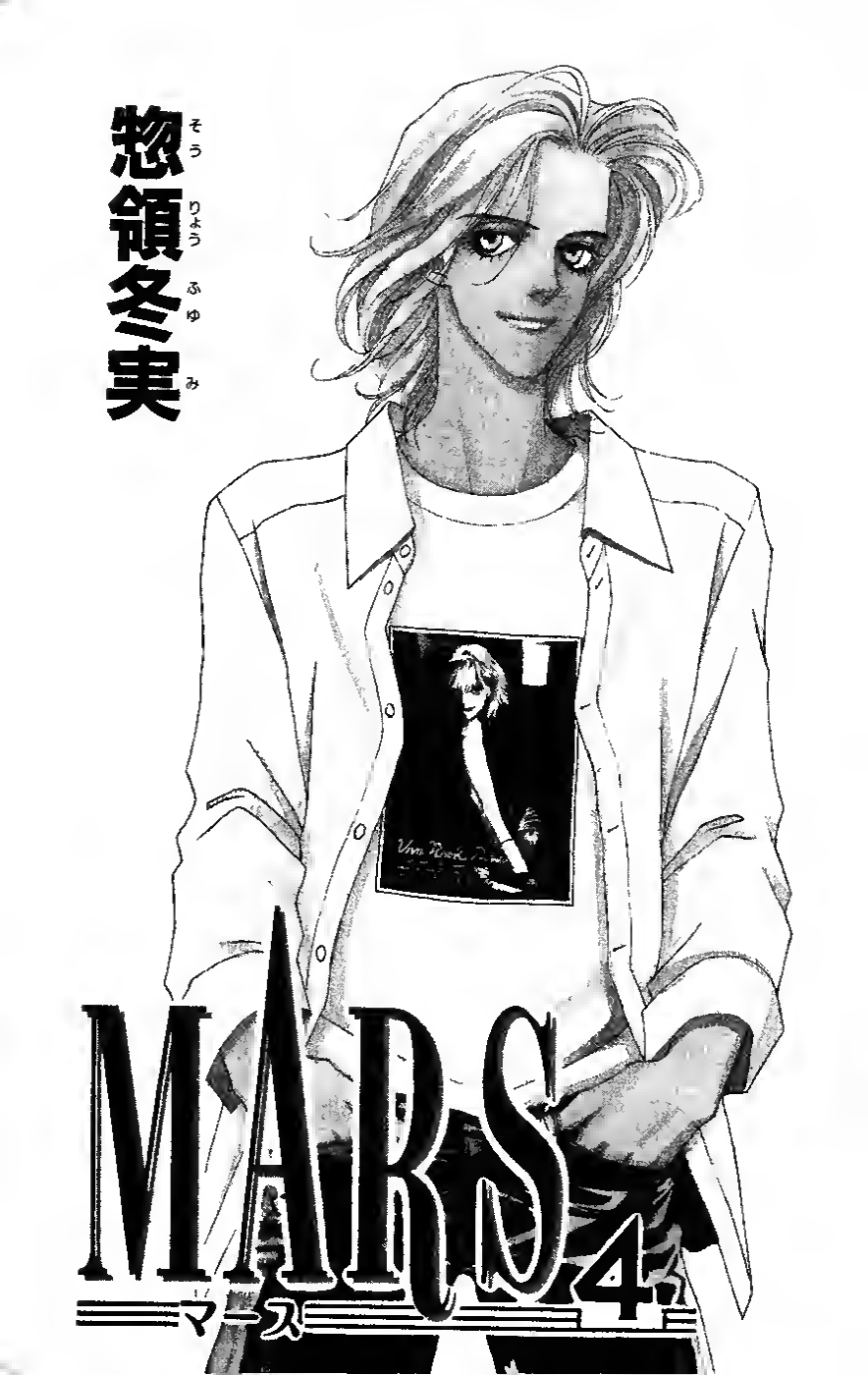
MARS

4

by Fuyumi Soryo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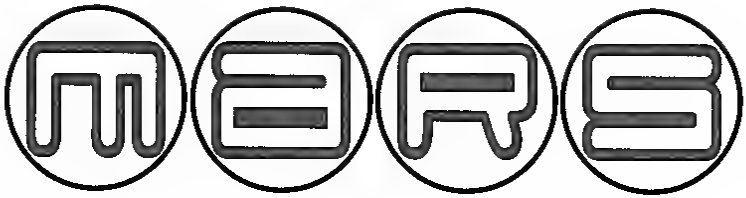

Volume 4

By Fuyumi Soryo

TOKYOPOP®

LOS ANGELES • TOKYO

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MARS

LEGEND OF MARS

Rei Kashino
A high school student, motorcycle racer and fan of Kira's artwork. His twin brother Sei died recently.

Kyoko Katayama
Rei's riding partner in the 8-endurance race. She knows Rei's past.

Our story up to now—

Kira is spellbound by Rei when she sees him kissing a statue of Mars in the art studio. Meanwhile, Rei finds himself drawn to Kira's sketch of a mother and child. Over time, the two grow closer. On their first date, Kira finds out Rei had a brother, Sei, who died recently. Then Kyoko tells Kira shocking details about Rei's past, including the fact that Sei committed suicide by jumping off a building right before Rei's eyes.

Later, Rei races in the Suzuka 8-hour endurance race. He would have won if he hadn't been disqualified for a rule violation. After the race, Rei goes to see Kira's painting of him. He's so moved, it brings the darkness in his heart one step closer to the light and renews his energy to live.

Kira Aso:
An artistic girl who's just entered a painting of Rei in an art show. She's in love with him though her anxiety about his dark side is growing.

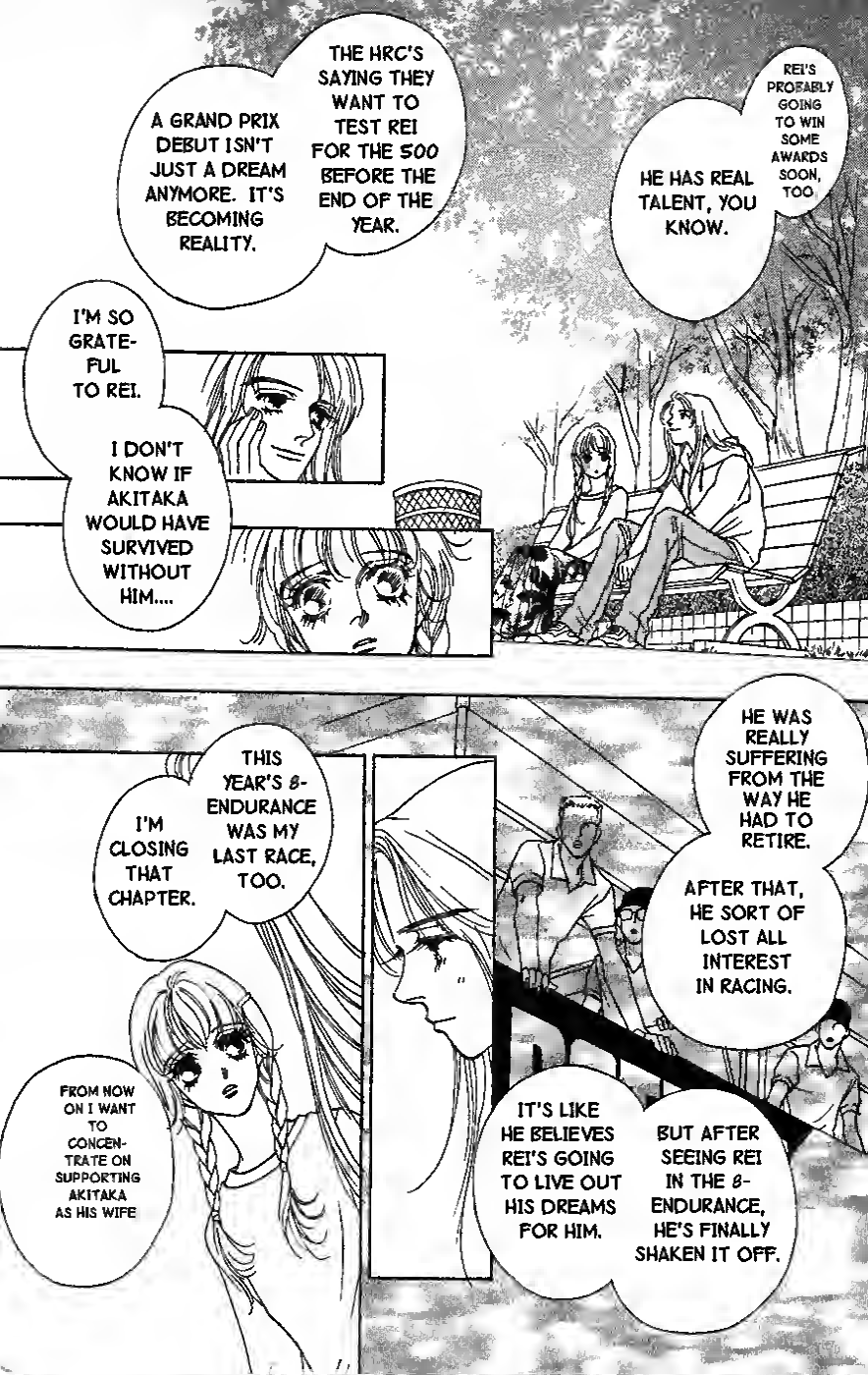
Haruni Sugihara
Kira's friend. She's very protective of Kira and Rei's love for each other.

WOW! IS THIS INSIDE THE PIT?
YUP! THEY LET US IN BECAUSE WE'RE FRIENDS OF REI'S.
IT TOTALLY FELT LIKE WE WERE VIPS.

96
WHO'S THIS GUY?
OH...
THAT'S SOME BIG SHOT FROM HONDA.
ANYONE'S GOT TO BE IMPRESSED WHEN THEY SEE HIM RACE.
REI LOOKED AWESOME DURING THE 8-ENDURANCE!
MY NAME'S KUGA. I'M THE TEAM MANAGER OF THE WGP500.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S THE SAME PERSON WHO WAS HAPPILY DROPPIHG HIS PANTS THE HIGHT BEFORE...
KIRA!
YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL.
KUMA?
KUGA!!
SOMEONE NAMED TAKEMURA FROM SEIWA ACADEMY.
TAKEMURA...? WHO'S THAT?
HELLO...
HE CAME BACK TO JAPAN IH THE MIDDLE OF THE BIG RACES JUST TO SEE REI.
THEY REALLY HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR HIM.

IS THAT MODEL REI KASHINO?
HELLO. MY NAME'S TAKEMURA FROM THE ART CLUB AT SEIWA ACADEMY.
OH... I'M SORRY TO BE SO ABRUPT...
WHAT!? UM...
I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT THE PAINTING YOU HAVE IN THE NIKI GALLERY.
YOUR PAINTING MARS ...
YOUR ART TEACHER, MS. KANEKO, GAVE ME YOUR NUMBER...
HOW DO YOU KNOW REI?
SO IT IS REI.
REI GOES TO YOUR SCHOOL THEN?
UM... YES...
WHAT DO YOU...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
BEEEP
CLICK

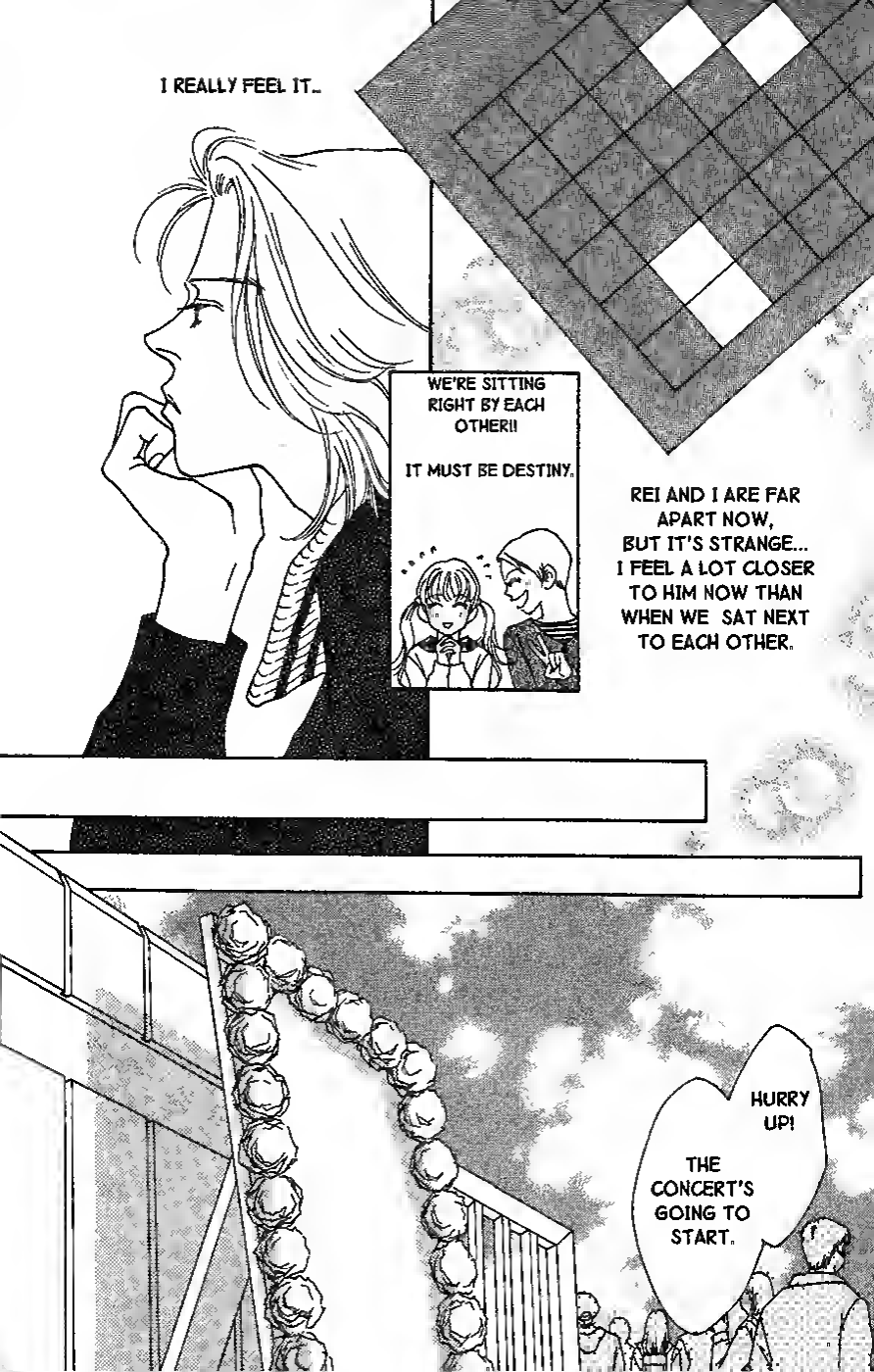
SEIWA'S ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOLS IN THE ENTIRE COUNTY. HOW WOULD SOMEONE THERE KNOW REI?
!
KYOKO!
WOW, WHAT A COINCIDENCE
WAIT, THAT'S RIGHT, YOU LIVE RIGHT BY THE MEDICAL CENTER.
ARE YOU STILL GETTING TREATMENT FOR YOUR FINGER?
YEAH. BUT I'M JUST GOING TO PHYSICAL THERAPY NOW...
ANYWAY, I HEARD YOU WON A BIG AWARD- CONGRATULATIONS!

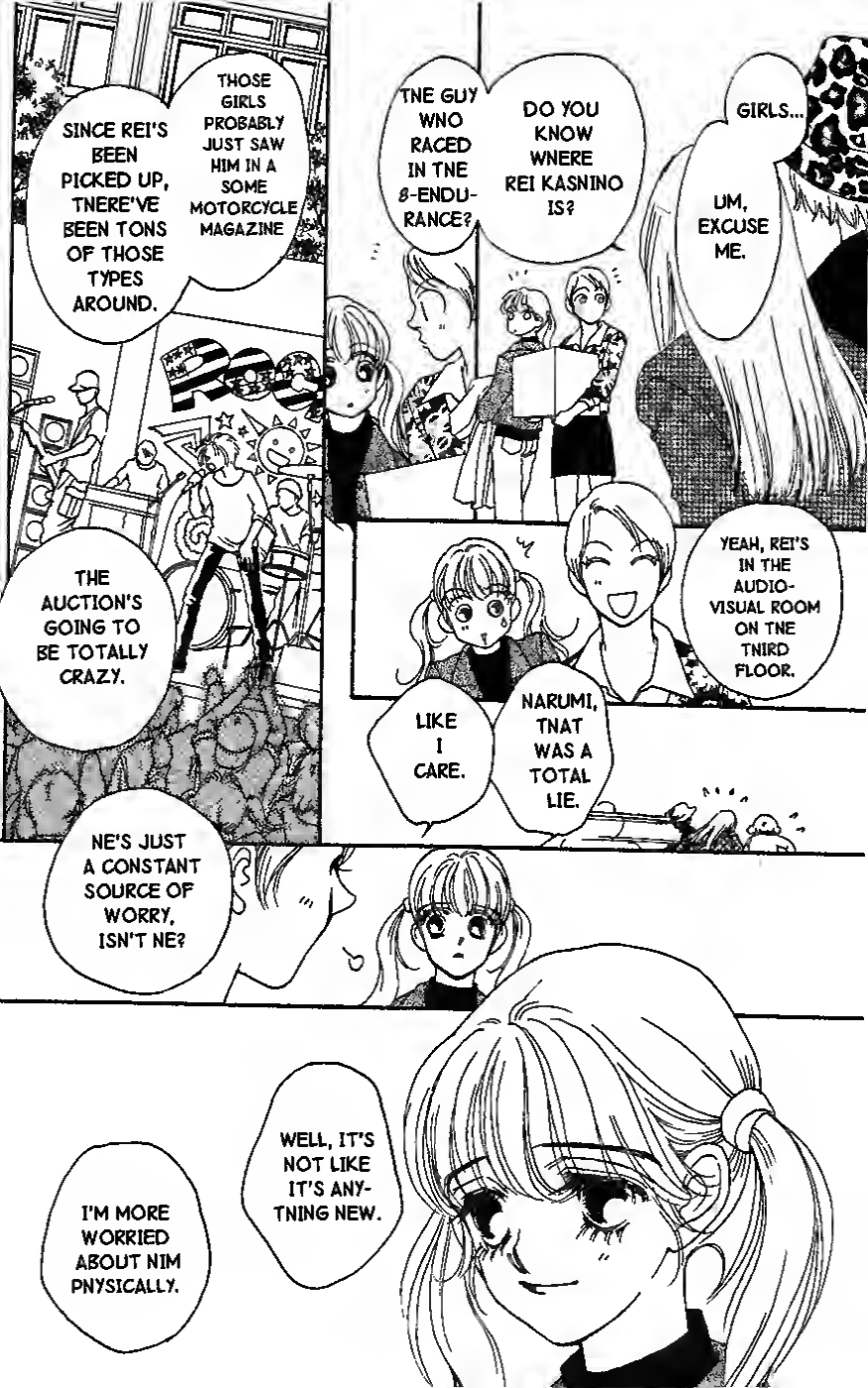

REI'S PROBABLY GOING TO WIN SOME AWARDS SOON, TOO.
HE HAS REAL TALENT, YOU KNOW.
THE HRC'S SAYING THEY WANT TO TEST REI FOR THE 500 BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.
A GRAND PRIX DEBUT ISN'T JUST A DREAM ANYMORE. IT'S BECOMING REALITY.
I'M SO GRATE-FUL TO REI.
I DON'T KNOW IF AKITAKA WOULD HAVE SURVIVED WITHOUT HIM....
HE WAS REALLY SUFFERING FROM THE WAY HE HAD TO RETIRE.
AFTER THAT, HE SORT OF LOST ALL INTEREST IN RACING.
BUT AFTER SEEING REI IN THE 8-ENDURANCE, HE'S FINALLY SHAKEN IT OFF.
IT'S LIKE HE BELIEVES REI'S GOING TO LIVE OUT HIS DREAMS FOR HIM.
THIS YEAR'S 8-ENDURANCE WAS MY LAST RACE, TOO.
I'M CLOSING THAT CHAPTER.
FROM NOW ON I WANT TO CONCEN-TRATE ON SUPPORTING AKITAKA AS HIS WIFE

THE GRAND PRIX...
ESPECIALLY THE 500 CLASS, ISN'T EASY....
IT MIGHT-SOUND STRANGE COMING FROM ME..
BUT I WANT YOU TO BE THERE FOR REI.
IF HE TRIES FOR THE WORLD GRAND PRIX, HE'LL BE SPENDING MOST OF THE YEAR OVERSEAS WITH THE WORLD AS HIS OPPONENT.
PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY, HIS LIFE WILL BE REALLY DIFFICULT...
I WANT YOU TO BE THERE FOR HIM.
OKAY, SO, IT'S DECIDED THAT 2-B'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE SCHOOL FAIR WILL BE AN AUCTION.

SO DOES ANYONE HAVE IDEAS FOR AUCTION ITEMS...?
YES. THIS IS PERFECT.
A RIDE WITH REI ON HIS BIKE!!
NO.
DEFINITELY A VERY STRONG NO ON THE BIKE THING.
THEN A DATE WITH REI!!
WAIT, WHY ME?!
IT'S ABOUT THE ONLY THING YOU'RE GOOD FOR, ISN'T IT?
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
FORGET IT. KIRA WOULDN'TGO ALONG WITH THIS ANYWAY.
RIGHT, KIRA?
. . . . .
YES, SHE WOULD.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?! YOU WANT TO SELL ME!
CHAIRMAN, YOU CAN GO AHEAD.

WELL,
I GUESS THEY KNOW YOUR RELATIONSHIP WON'T FALL APART JUST BECAUSE OF THAT.
AFTER WE SWITCHED SEATS FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR,
I REALIZED...
OKAY, THEN, THE BIG AUCTION ITEM WILL BE A DAY WITH REI.
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT, KIRA?
YOU'RE HIS GIRL-FRIEND, RIGHT?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT SAYING ANYTHING, -
THEY'RE GOING AHEAD AND DOING WHATEVER THEY WANT


I REALLY FEEL IT..
WE'RE SITTING RIGHT BY EACH OTHER!!
IT MUST BE DESTINY.
REI AND I ARE FAR APART NOW, BUT IT'S STRANGE... I FEEL A LOT CLOSER TO HIM NOW THAN WHEN WE SAT NEXT TO EACH OTHER.
HURRY UP!
THE CONCERT'S GOING TO START.


SINCE REI'S BEEN PICKED UP, THERE'VE BEEN TONS OF THOSE TYPES AROUND.
THOSE GIRLS PROBABLY JUST SAW HIM IN A SOME MOTORCYCLE MAGAZINE
THE AUCTION'S GOING TO BE TOTALLY CRAZY.
THE GUY WHO RACED IN THE 8-ENDURANCE?
DO YOU KNOW WHERE REI KASHINO IS?
GIRLS...
UM, EXCUSE ME.
YEAH, REI'S IN THE AUDIO-VISUAL ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR.
LIKE I CARE.
NARUMI, THAT WAS A TOTAL LIE.
HE'S JUST A CONSTANT SOURCE OF WORRY, ISN'T HE?
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT HIM PHYSICALLY.
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S ANYTHING NEW.

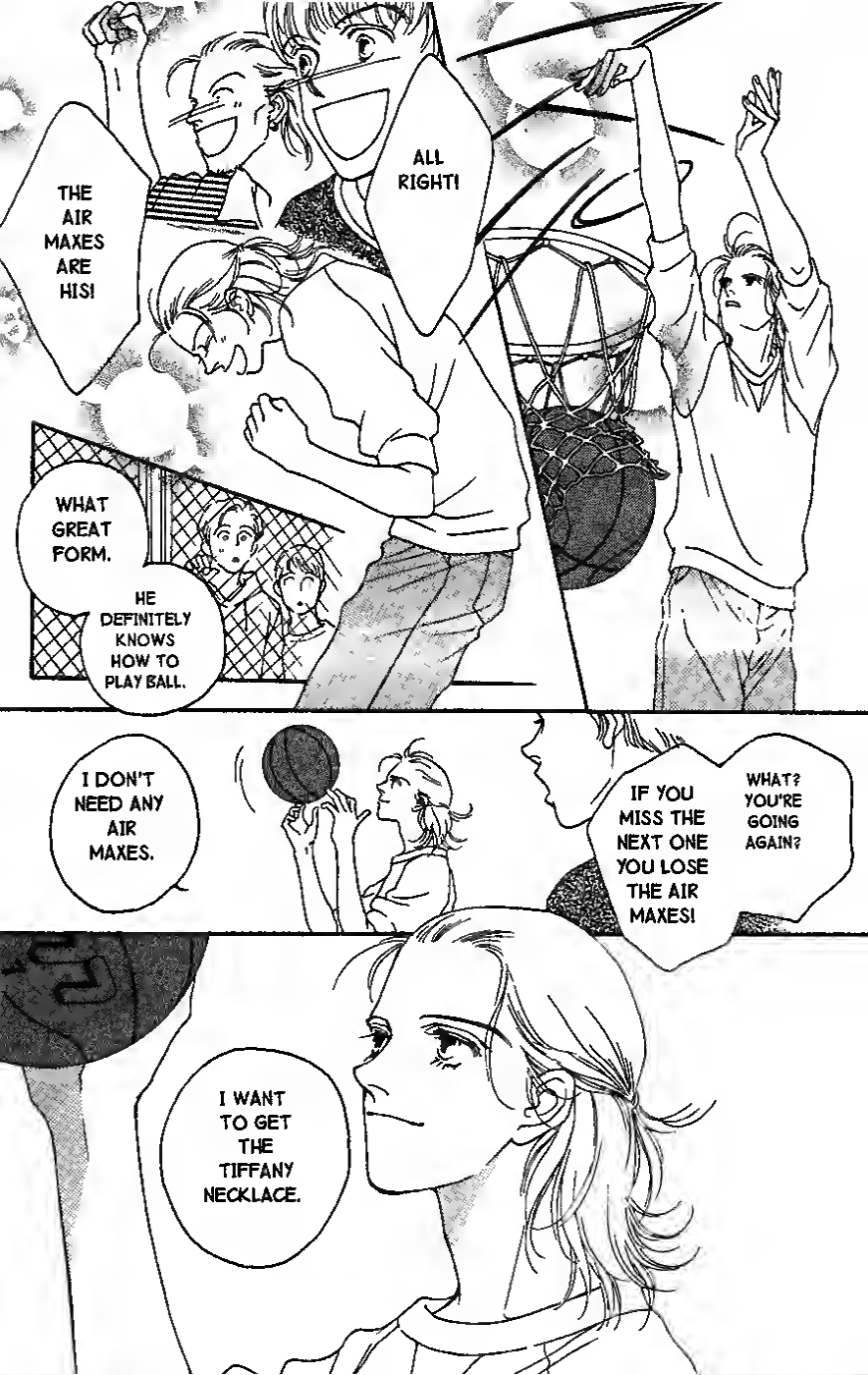
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
REI'S REALLY GOING TO BE A PROFESSIONAL RACER.
I HOPE HE'S OKAY.
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I'VE HEARD.
THE 500 MOTORCYCLE HE'S GOING TO BE ON IS SUPPOSED TO BE REALLY HARD TO RIDE.
I WANT YOU TO BE THERE FOR HIM...
BUT...
AM I REALLY THE RIGHT ONE FOR THAT...?
IF I COULD, I'D BE WITH HIM FOREVER.
I WANT TO BE THERE FOR HIM.

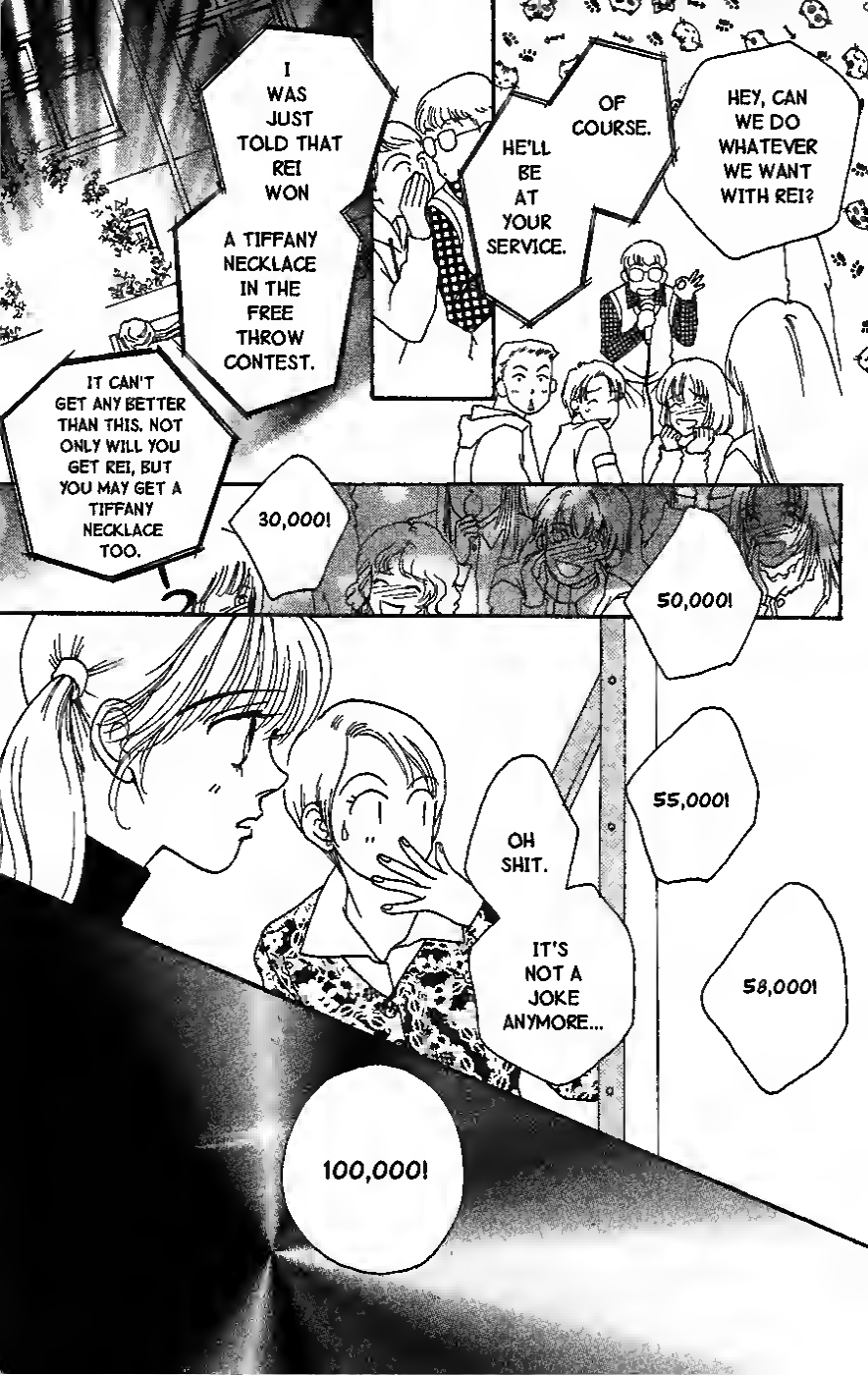
THAT REALLY HIT ME STRAIGHT IN THE HEART.
I WANT TO BE THERE FOR AKITAKA AS HIS WIFE.
THE WAY SHE SAID IT...WITH SO MUCH CONFIDENCE AND TRUST.
I CAN'T EVEN COME CLOSE TO SAYING ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
ALL I CAN DO IS WAIT... WAIT LIKE A FOOL...FOR REI TO SMILE....
NO. HE'S NOT AROUND?
WE'RE UP RIGHT AFTER 3-A'S BAND, ..
BUT WE'VE GOT NOTHING IF WE DON'T HAVE OUR SHOWCASE ITEM.
HE JUST CAN'T STAY STILL!
HEY, HAVE YOU GUYS SEEN REI?

THAT GUY'LL NEVER WIN.
HE'S SMALL TO BEGIN WITH.
IT'S LIKE POURING SALT IN A WOUND.
TATSUYA'S JUST NOT ON IT.
WHAT! WHAT'S TATSUYA DOING?
AND HE MISSES THE FOURTH ONE!
HIS DREAM OF GET-TING A PAIR OF AIR MAXES IS GONE!
FOR AN ENTRY FEE OF JUST 1,000 YEN, YOU CAN WIN GREAT PRIZES.
THREE IN A ROW AND YOU GET A MINI-TETRIS, FOUR IN A ROW AND YOU GET A PAIR OF AIR MAXES.
FIVE IN A ROW AND YOU GET A TIFFANY HEART NECKLACE!
WHOA. MISSED ON THE FIRST TRY!! THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN WIN NOW.
AWRIGHT!
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE.
YOU GUYS JUST WATCH MY TECHNIQUE.

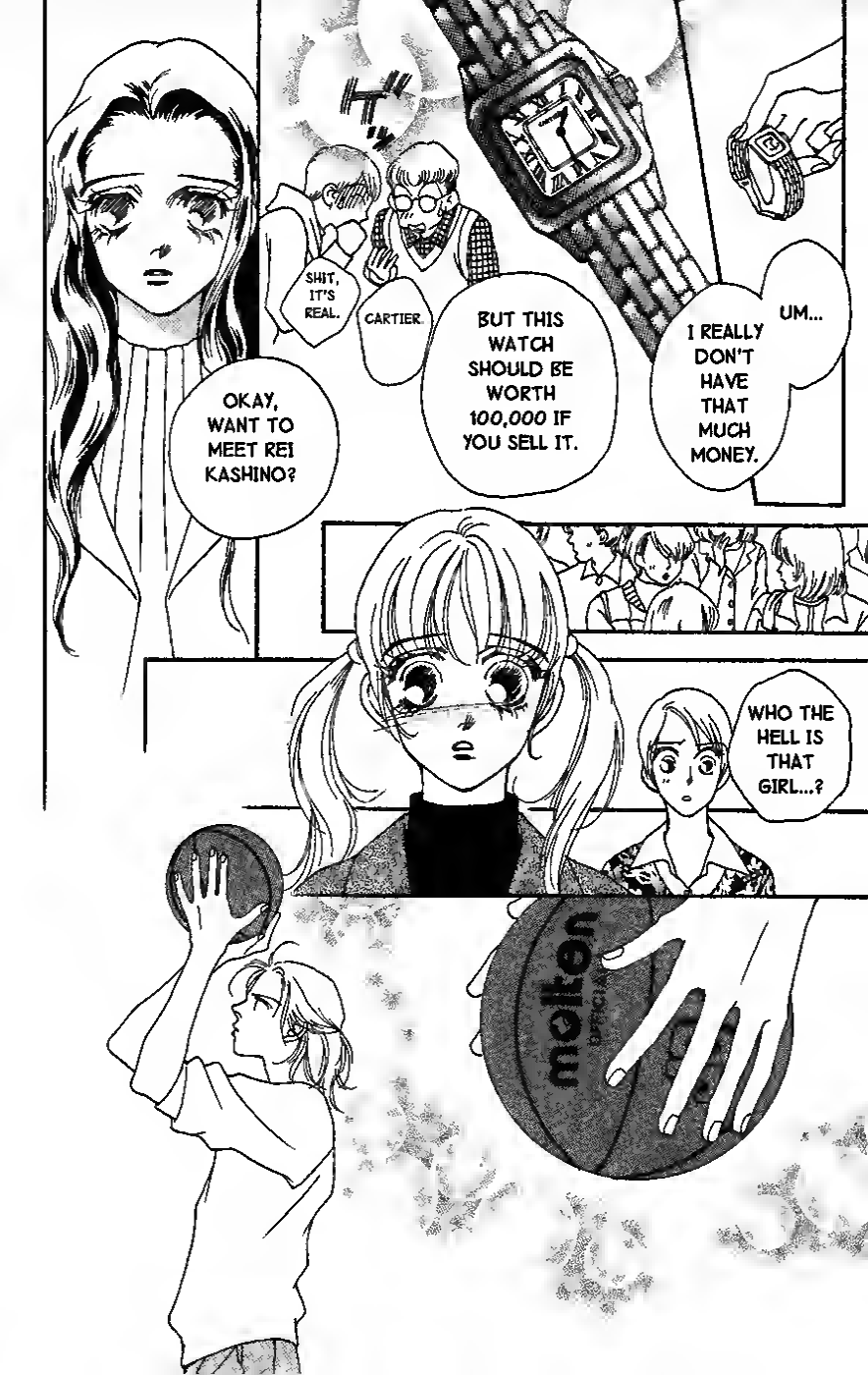
ALL RIGHT, NOW OLD REI'S GONNA GIVE IT A TRY.
I'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN.
THIS ITEM HAS BEEN SOLD TO THE GIRL IN THE GREEN DRESS FOR 3,000 YEN.
AND NOW WE'VE COME TO TODAY'S SHOWCASE ITEM...

A DAY WITH THE COOLEST GUY AT WEST HIGH, REI KASHINO.
LET'S START AT 1,000 YEN.
10,000!
15,000!
20,000!
WOW!
EVERYONE LOOKS RUTHLESS...
GET THE FOURTH ONE TOO, REI!
SLAM!
OKAY.
JUST LEAVE IT TO ME.
HE MAKES THE THIRD BASKET!


THE AIR MAXES ARE HIS!
ALL RIGHT!
WHAT GREAT FORM.
HE DEFINITELY KNOWS HOW TO PLAY BALL.
I DON'T NEED ANY AIR MAXES.
IF YOU MISS THE NEXT ONE YOU LOSE THE AIR MAXES!
WHAT? YOU'RE GOING AGAIN?
I WANT TO GET THE TIFFANY NECKLACE.


I WAS JUST TOLD THAT REI WON A TIFFANY NECKLACE IN THE FREE THROW CONTEST.
IT CAN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS. NOT ONLY WILL YOU GET REI, BUT YOU MAY GET A TIFFANY NECKLACE TOO.
OF COURSE. HE'LL BE AT YOUR SERVICE.
HEY, CAN WE DO WHATEVER WE WANT WITH REI?
30,000!
50,000!
55,000!
58,000!
OH SHIT.
IT'S NOT A JOKE ANYMORE...
100,000!

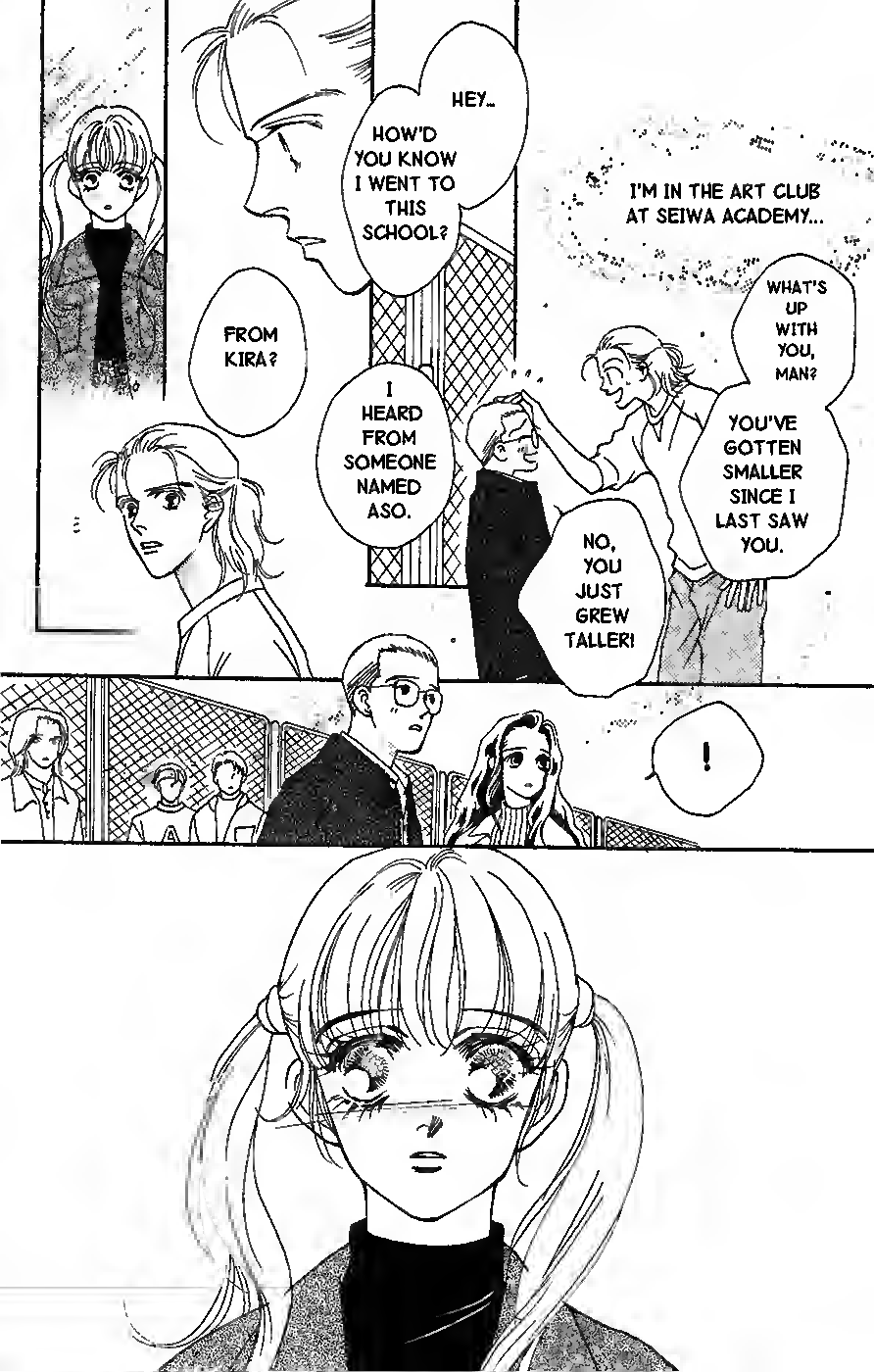
SOLDI
WHO'S THAT? I DON'T KNOW HER.
SHE DOESN'T GO TO OUR SCHOOL.

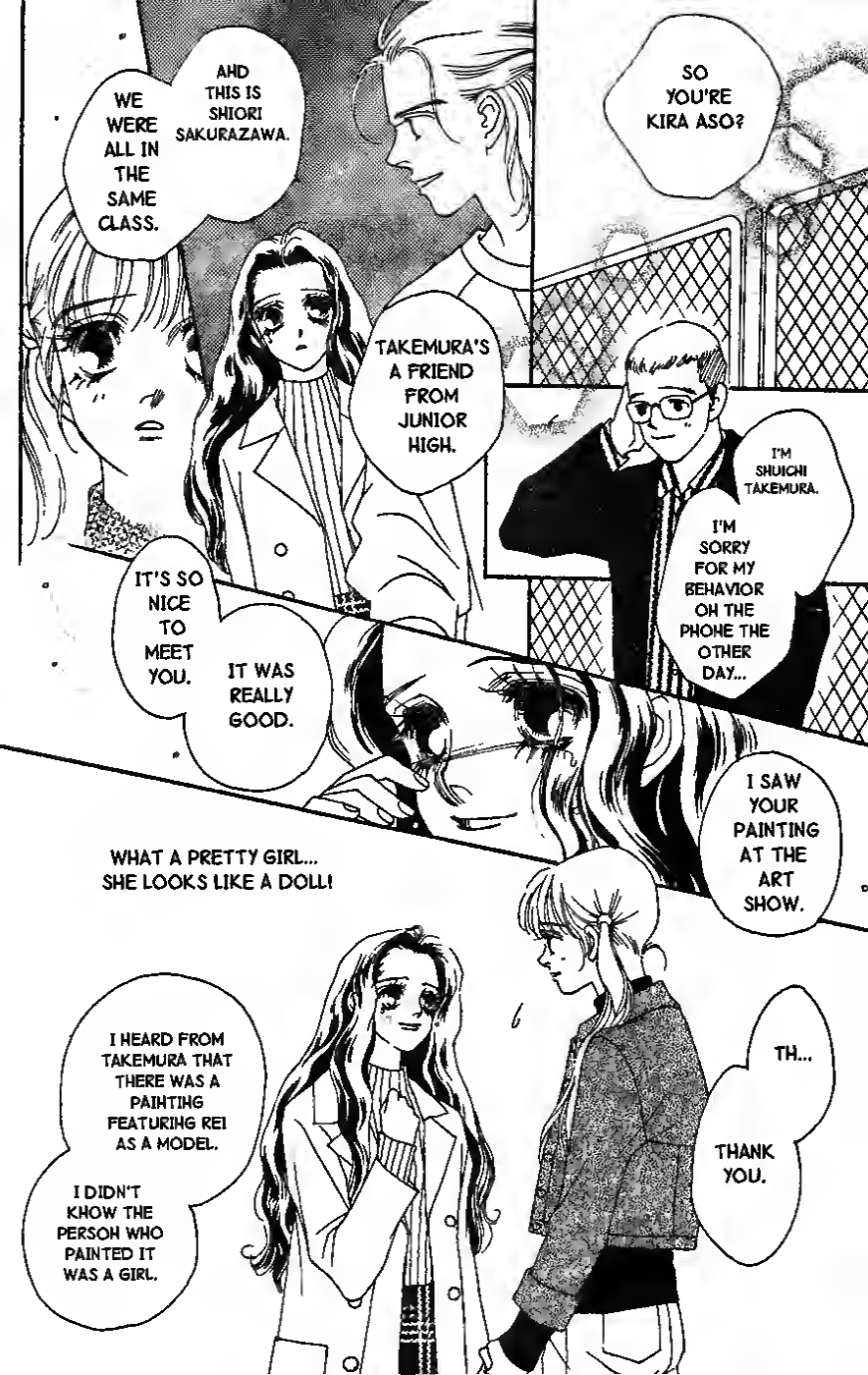

UM... I REALLY DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH MONEY.
BUT THIS WATCH SHOULD BE WORTH 100,000 IF YOU SELL IT.
CARTIER.
SHIT, IT'S REAL.
OKAY, WANT TO MEET REI KASHINO?
WHO THE HELL IS THAT GIRL...?
molten

AND THE FIFTH ONE IS IN!!
YEAH!

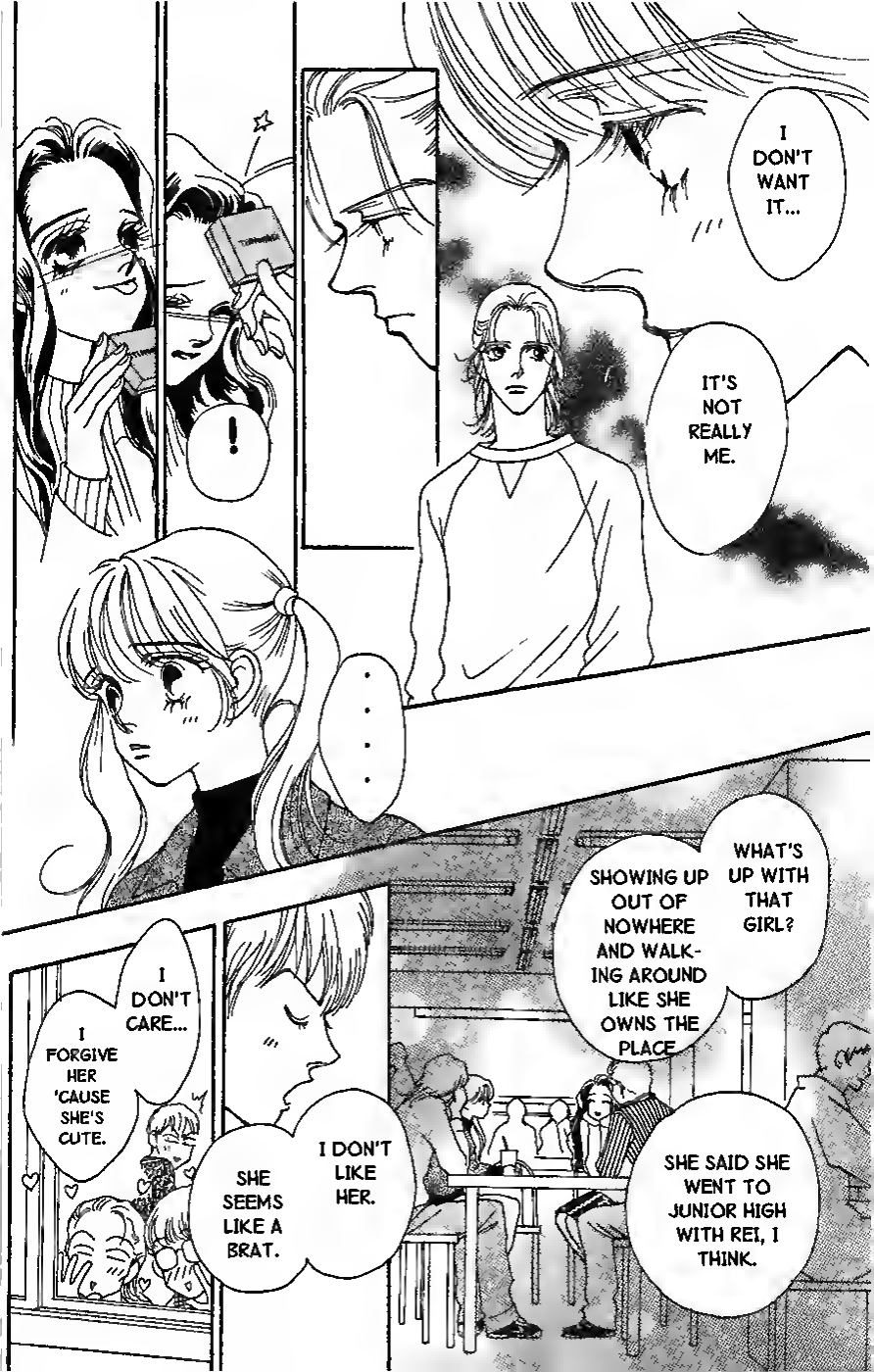
SHIORI...
REI...
REI...
I WANTED TO SEE YOU.

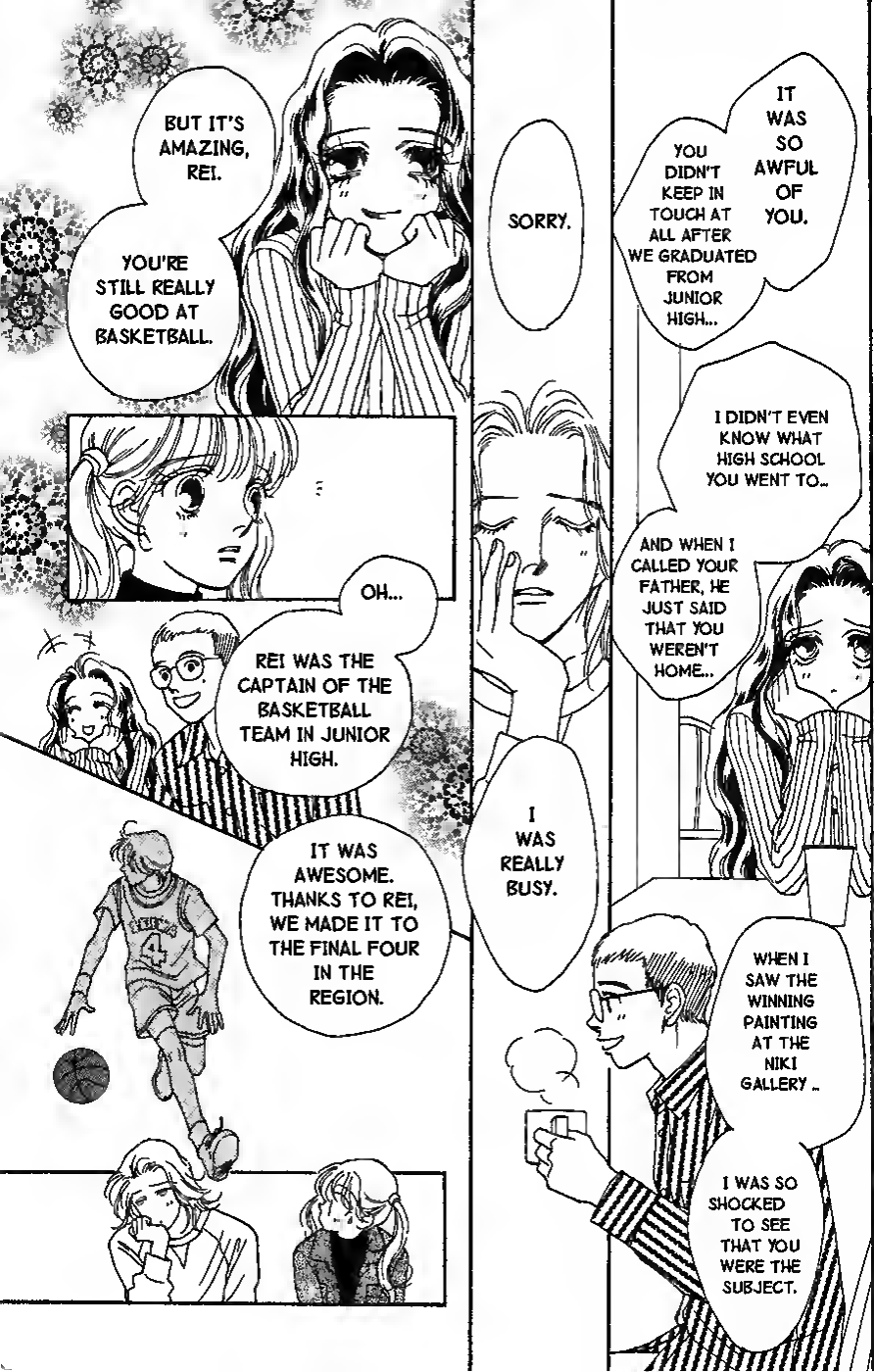
SHIORI!
REI?
TAKEMURA?


HEY..
HOW'D YOU KNOW I WENT TO THIS SCHOOL?
FROM KIRA?
I HEARD FROM SOMEONE NAMED ASO.
I'M IN THE ART CLUB AT SEIWA ACADEMY...
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU, MAN?
YOU'VE GOTTEN SMALLER SINCE I LAST SAW YOU.
NO, YOU JUST GREW TALLER!
!

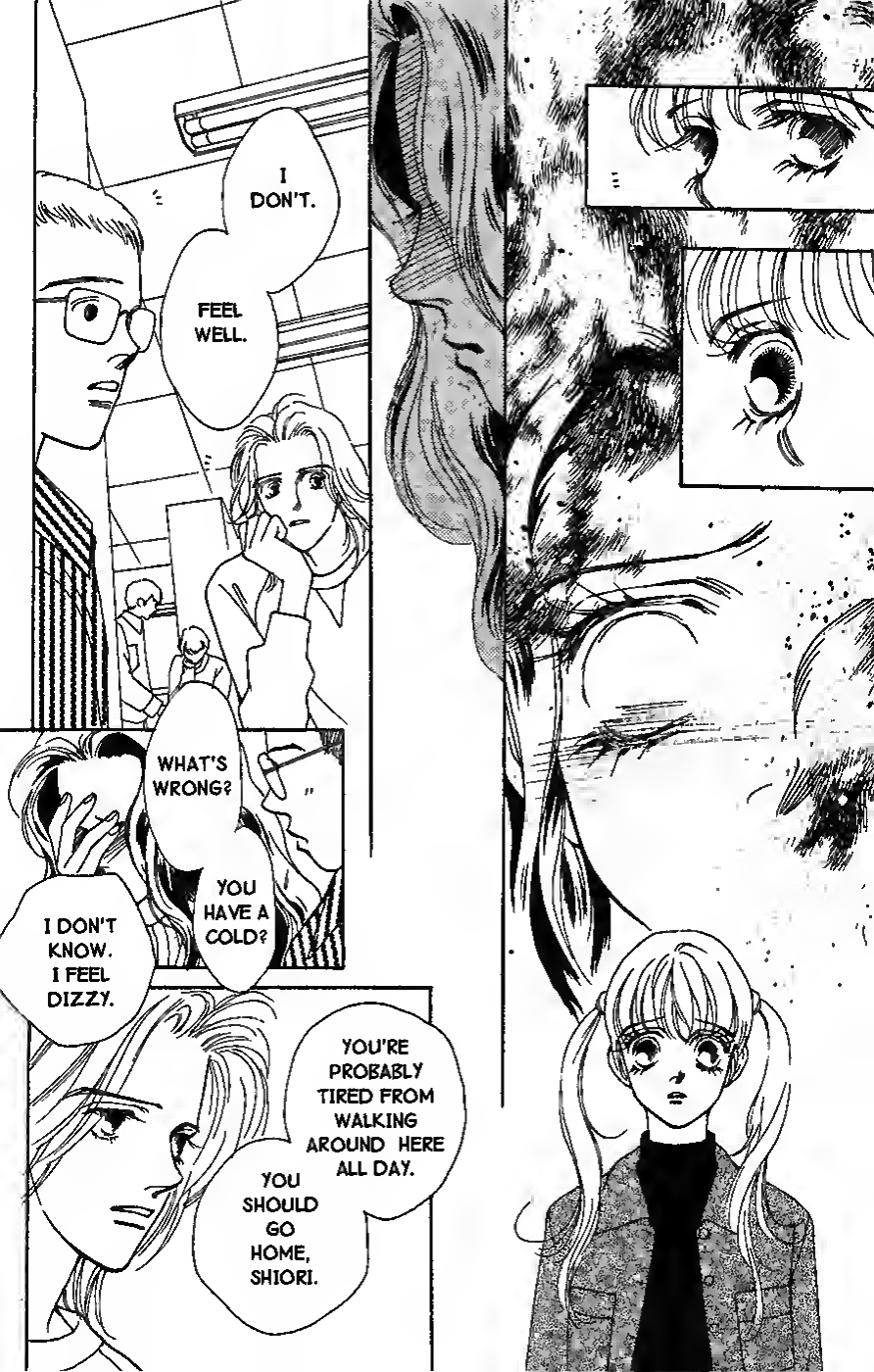

SO YOU'RE KIRA ASO?
I'M SHUICHI TAKEMURA.
I'M SORRY FOR MY BEHAVIOR ON THE PHONE THE OTHER DAY...
I SAW YOUR PAINTING AT THE ART SHOW.
TH...
THANK YOU.
WHAT A PRETTY GIRL... SHE LOOKS LIKE A DOLL!
I HEARD FROM TAKEMURA THAT THERE WAS A PAINTING FEATURING REI AS A MODEL.
I DIDN'T KNOW THE PERSON WHO PAINTED IT WAS A GIRL.
AND THIS IS SHIORI SAKURAZAWA.
WE WERE ALL IN THE SAME CLASS.
TAKEMURA'S A FRIEND FROM JUNIOR HIGH.
IT'S SO NICE TO MEET YOU.
IT WAS REALLY GOOD.

THANK YOU FOR PAINTING HIM SO BEAUTIFULLY.
OH,
THAT'S THE LITTLE PRIZE THAT COMES WITH REI.
GIGGLE
I JUST BOUGHT YOU AND THE NECKLACE AT THE AUCTION.
H.. HEY, REI.
HERE.
WAIT A MINUTE! DIDN'T YOU WIN THAT FOR KIRA?
HEY...
I SAID IT IN THE MOMENT.
FORGIVE ME!
OH...


I DON'T WANT IT...
IT'S NOT REALLY ME.
!
. . .
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT GIRL?
SHOWING UP OUT OF NOWHERE AND WALKING AROUND LIKE SHE OWNS THE PLACE
SHE SAID SHE WENT TO JUNIOR HIGH WITH REI, I THINK.
I DON'T LIKE HER.
SHE SEEMS LIKE A BRAT.
I DON'T CARE...
I FORGIVE HER 'CAUSE SHE'S CUTE.


IT WAS SO AWFUL OF YOU.
YOU DIDN'T KEEP IN TOUCH AT ALL AFTER WE GRADUATED FROM JUNIOR HIGH...
SORRY.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HIGH SCHOOL YOU WENT TO..
AND WHEN I CALLED YOUR FATHER, HE JUST SAID THAT YOU WEREN'T HOME...
I WAS REALLY BUSY.
WHEN I SAW THE WINNING PAINTING AT THE NIKI GALLERY ..
I WAS SO SHOCKED TO SEE THAT YOU WERE THE SUBJECT.
BUT IT'S AMAZING, REI.
YOU'RE STILL REALLY GOOD AT BASKETBALL.
OH...
REI WAS THE CAPTAIN OF THE BASKETBALL TEAM IN JUNIOR HIGH.
IT WAS AWESOME. THANKS TO REI, WE MADE IT TO THE FINAL FOUR IN THE REGION.

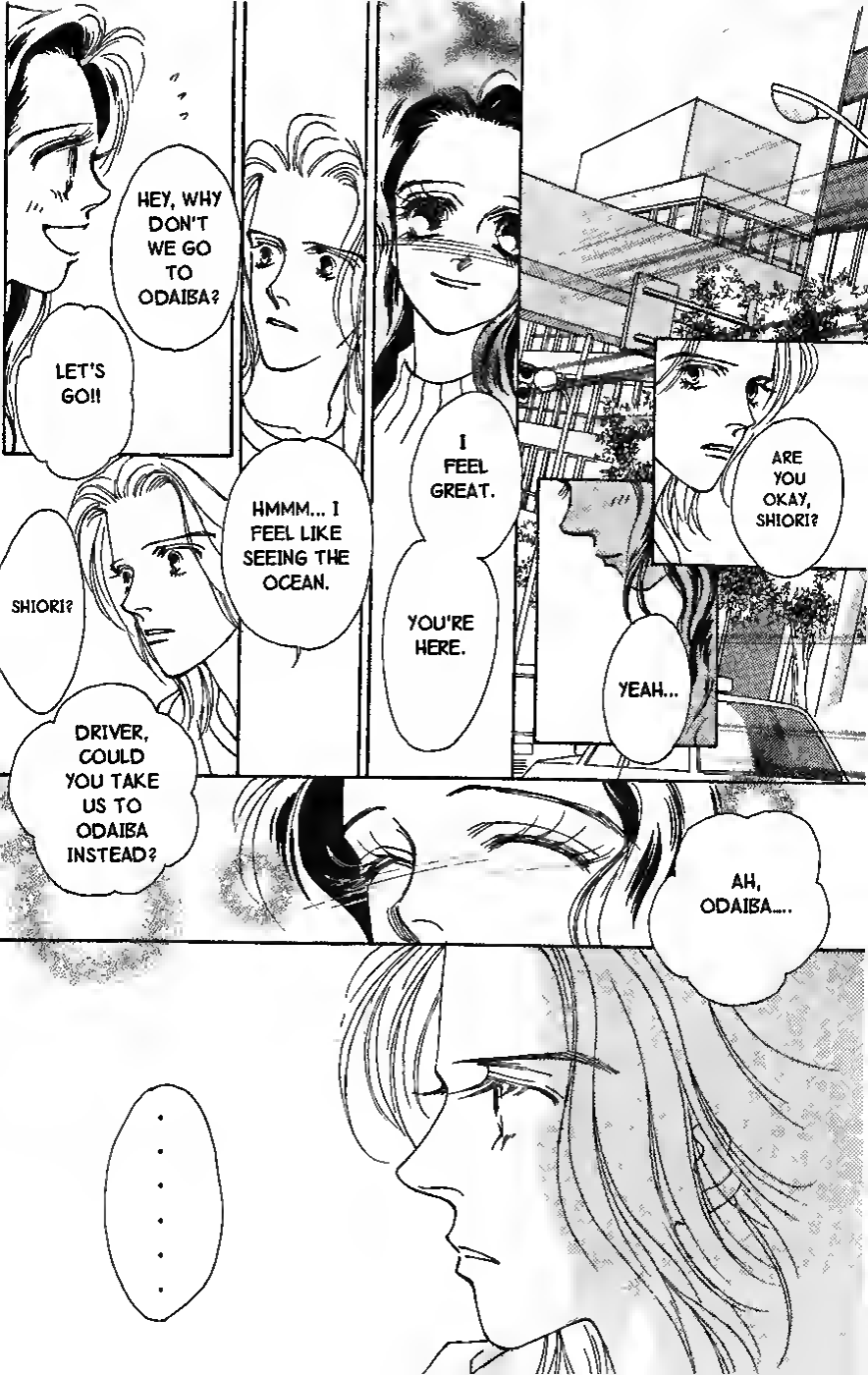
BY THE WAY, THE BASKET-BALL COACH, MR. NAKAMURA, IS GETTING MARRIED.
WHAT, NO SHIT?
I'M SUR-PRISED HE WAS ABLE TO FIND A TAKER.
AND THEN, GUESS WHAT TAKADA DID?
WHAT... AM I DOING HERE.....
IT'S THE SAME CAFETERIA, BUT IT FEELS LIKE I'VE COME HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME.
I WANT TO GO AWAY...
SOMEWHERE...


I DON'T.
FEEL WELL.
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU HAVE A COLD?
I DON'T KNOW. I FEEL DIZZY.
YOU'RE PROBABLY TIRED FROM WALKING AROUND HERE ALL DAY.
YOU SHOULD GO HOME, SHIORI.

NO. NO
I WANT TO STAY WITH YOU.
NO.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN SO LONG.
DON'T BE SUCH A BABY.
BUT...
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HER HOME, REI?

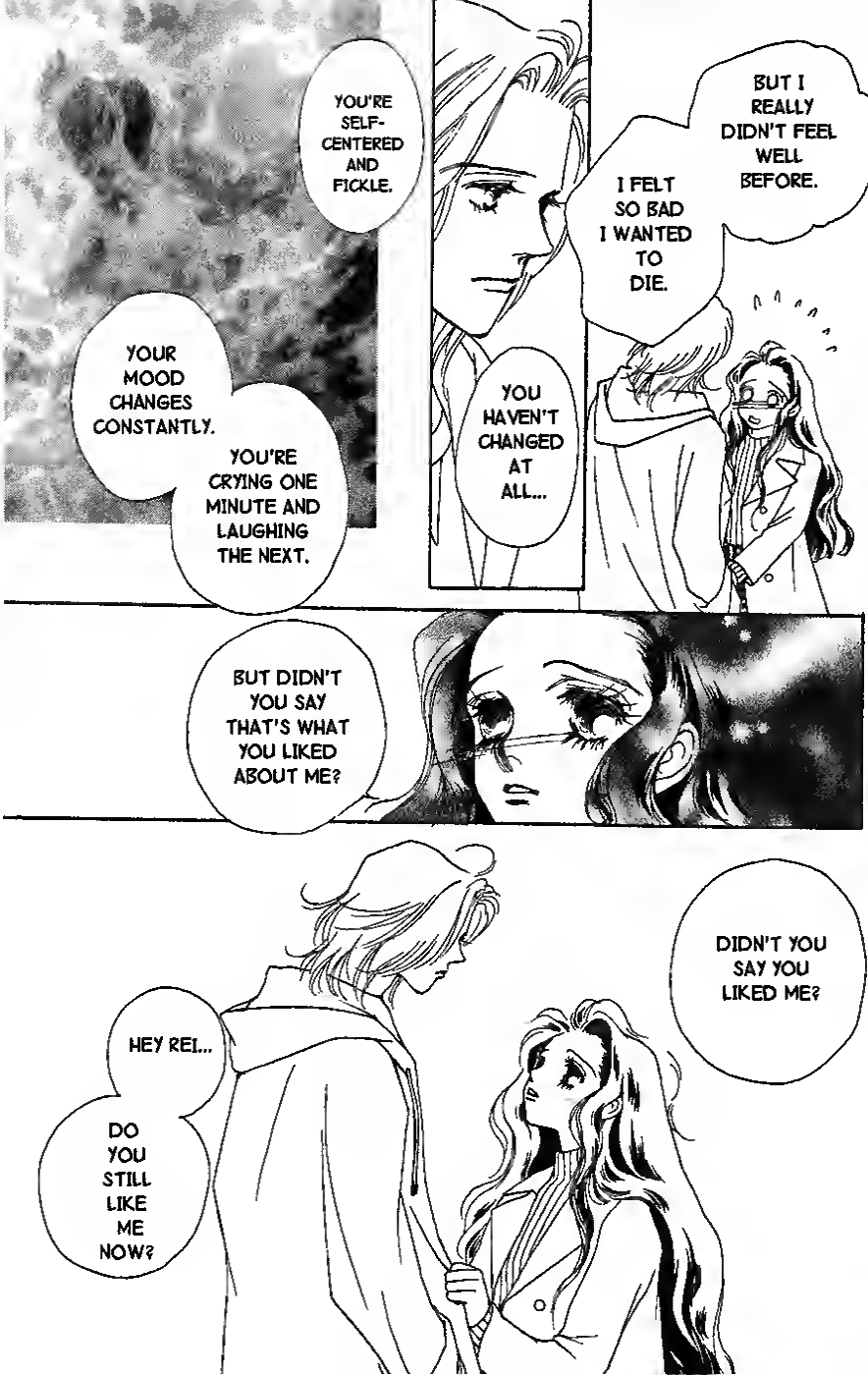
I'LL BE BACK RIGHT AFTER I TAKE SHIORI HOME.
AREN'T YOU COMING WITH US, TAKEMURA?
NO, I'LL TAKE THE TRAIN. I LIVE IN THE OTHER DIRECTION.
SORRY...

WHEN I SAW THAT PAINTING, I KIND OF KNEW YOU WERE REI'S GIRLFRIEND.
YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT IT BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO CAUSE REI ANY TROUBLE. ISN'T THAT IT?
TO PUT A DOWNER ON THINGS..
DURING YOUR SCHOOL FAIR.
EVEN WITH THAT NECKLACE EARLIER...
...YOU PURPOSELY GAVE IT UP.
DIDN'T YOU?


HEY, WHY DON'T WE GO TO ODAIBA?
LET'S GO!!
HMMM... I FEEL LIKE SEEING THE OCEAN.
I FEEL GREAT.
YOU'RE HERE.
ARE YOU OKAY, SHIORI?
YEAH...
SHIORI?
DRIVER, COULD YOU TAKE US TO ODAIBA INSTEAD?
AH, ODAIBA....
.
.
.
.
.

SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN SO POPULAR, SHE JUST GOT WHATEVER SHE WANTED.
EVERYONE JUST SPOILS HER BECAUSE SHE'S PRETTY.
SHIORI DOESN'T MEAN ANY HARM, BUT SHE'S SO SELF-CENTERED...
I DON'T KNOW..
BUT... SHE STARTED CRYING.
EVEN TODAY, I WANTED TO COME ALONE...
THANK YOU FOR PAINTING HIM SO BEAUTIFULLY.
WHEN I HEARD HER SAY THAT, I KNEW WHAT SHE REALLY MEANT.
WAS REI'S GIRLFRIEND, WASN'T SHE...
SHIORI..

THANK YOU FOR PAINTING "MY" REI SO BEAUTIFULLY.
WOW, THIS IS WONDERFUL!
IT SMELLS LIKE THE OCEAN.
ARE YOU MAD?
I'M JUST DUMB-FOUND-ED.
!
IT'S SO TYPI-CAL.

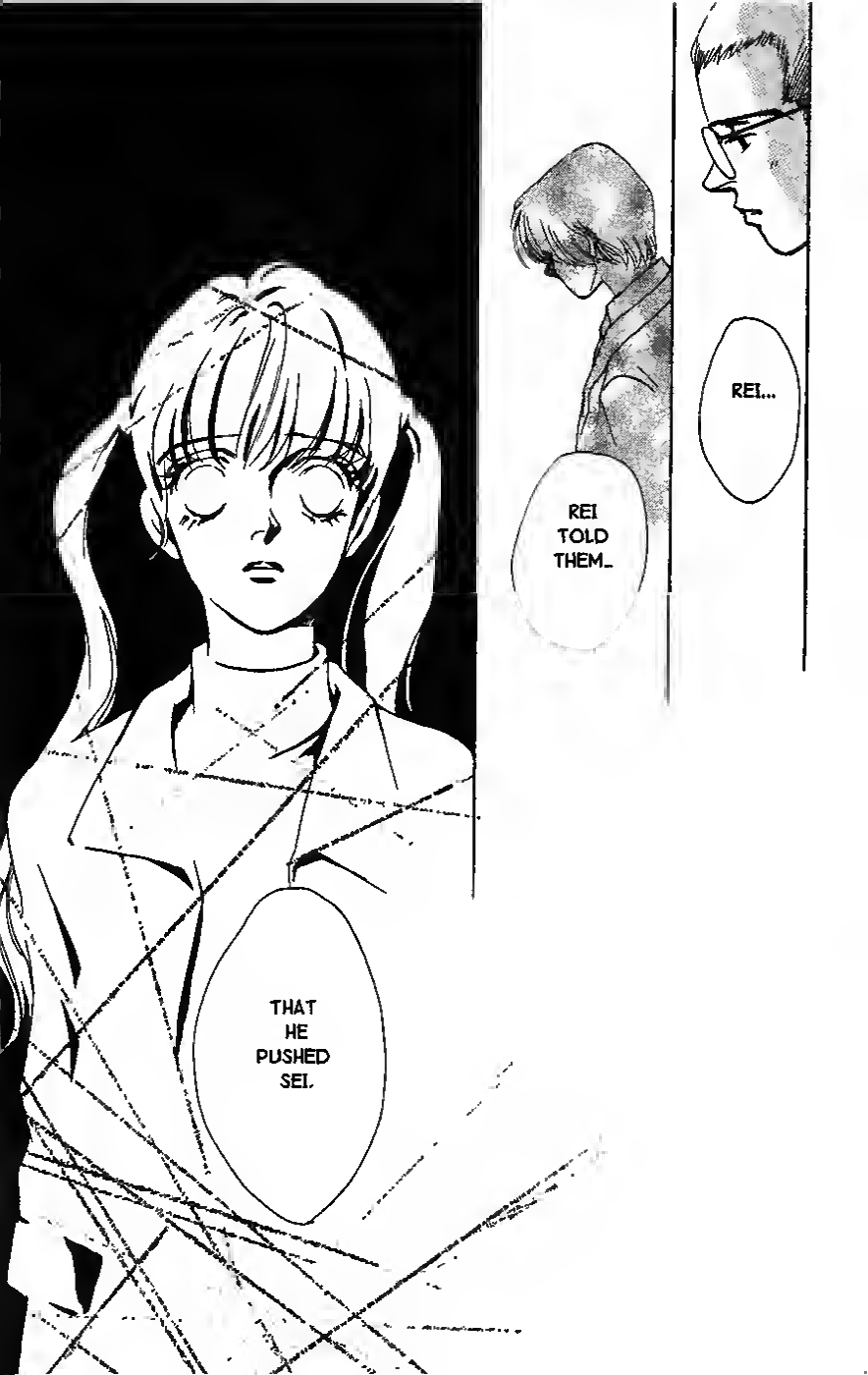

YOU'RE SELF-CENTERED AND FICKLE.
YOUR MOOD CHANGES CONSTANTLY.
YOU'RE CRYING ONE MINUTE AND LAUGHING THE NEXT.
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL...
I FELT SO BAD I WANTED TO DIE.
BUT I REALLY DIDN'T FEEL WELL BEFORE.
BUT DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT'S WHAT YOU LIKED ABOUT ME?
HEY REI...
DO YOU STILL LIKE ME NOW?
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU LIKED ME?

I STILL LIKE YOU NOW...
AND I ALWAYS WILL.
NO MATTER WHAT -
EVEN IF SEI WERE STILL ALIVE.

I SEE...
SO YOU KNOW THAT SEI COMMITTED SUICIDE.
IT WAS AFTER THAT...
THAT REI STARTED ACTING WEIRD....
HE BECAME A LITTLE QUIETER AFTER SEI DIED..., BUT WE THOUGHT HE'D BE ALL RIGHT.
SHIORI WAS GOING CRAZY.
REI WAS STRONG, SO WE FIGURED THAT HE WAS OKAY.
BUT REI DIDN'T COME BACK EVEN AFTER WINTER BREAK.
THE DOCTOR SAID THAT HE WOULD RECUPERATE IN THE HOSPITAL.
BUT WHAT WE DIDN'T REALIZE WAS THAT REI WAS SLOWLY BREAKING ON THE INSIDE.

I DOUBT IT. WHAT...?!
SURE, THERE WAS SOME TROUBLE, BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM KILL HIMSELF.
BESIDES, NOBODY WOULD TOUCH SEI BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID OF REI.
BECAUSE...
DIDN'T SEI KILL HIMSELF BECAUSE HE WAS GETTING BULLIED ALL THE TIME?
SO IF SEI HADN'T DIED, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE BROKEN UP.
IF THE BULLIES HAD JUST LEFT SEI ALONE...
BULLIES?
!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THEN WHY DID HE KILL HIMSELF?
I GUESS YOU HAVEN'T HEARD...

THAT SHIORI WENT OUT WITH SEI FIRST.
REI STOLE SEI'S GIRLFRIEND FROM HIM.
IT WAS A LITTLE AFTER THAT...
THAT SEI KILLED HIMSELF IN FRONT OF REI.
IT WAS CHAOS ALL OVER THE SCHOOL...
AND THEN THE POLICE SHOWED UP.
THE POLICE!?


REI...
REI TOLD THEM...
THAT HE PUSHED SEI.

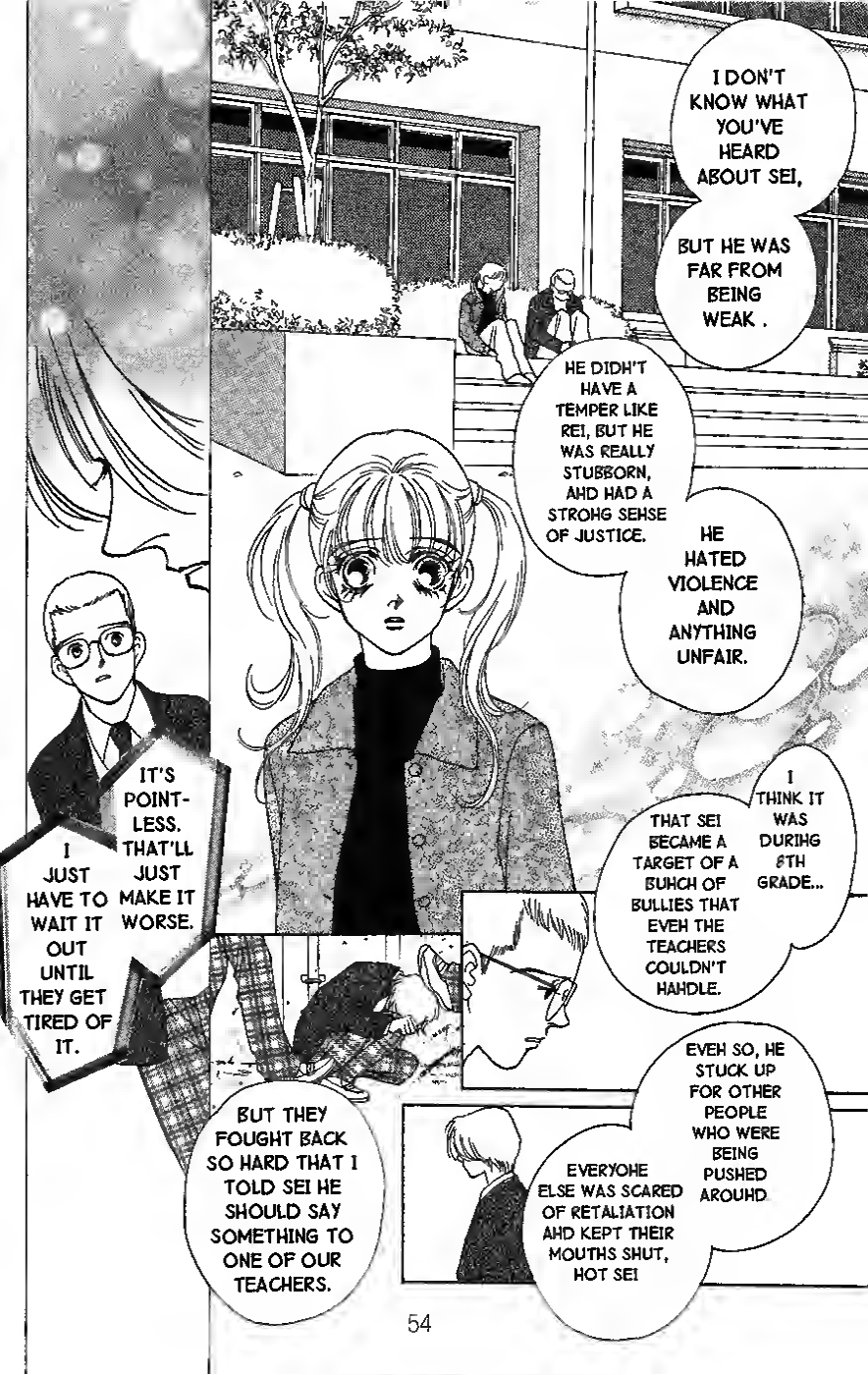
THERE'S NO QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT SEI COMMITTED SUICIDE.
I WAS THE ONE WHO FIRST NOTICED SEI UP ON THE ROOF.
AND I WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD REI ABOUT IT...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT EITHER.
PUSHED SEI..
THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS.
I THOUGHT REI WENT UP TO THE ROOF TO SAVE SEI.....

HE RAN UP THE STAIRS AT FULL SPEED...
TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THAT SEI WAS REALLY ON THE ROOF.
HE TURNED WHITE AND RAN OUT TO THE COURTYARD...
I IMMEDIATELY WENT TO FIND REI.
HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO THE LOCKER ROOM, AND SHIORI WAS WITH HIM.
I TOOK OFF TO TELL SOME TEACHERS AFTER THAT.
ONLY SHIORI WAS LEFT BEHIND...
IT PROBABLY TOOK ME ABOUT FIVE MINUTES TO GET TO THE FACULTY ROOM AND BACK.
BY THE TIME I CAME BACK WITH A FEW TEACHERS...

KASHINO!!
GET AN AMBULANCE!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT HAPPENED ?

NO.
REI DIDN'T DO IT!
I WAS WATCHING.
SEI HAD OBVIOUSLY COMMIT-TED SUICIDE.
EVEN THE POLICE ONLY DID A PARTIAL INSPECTION OF THE SCENE.
WHAT KIND OF SPECULA-TION...?
THAT IT WAS BECAUSE REI HAD STOLEN SHIORI FROM SEI.
THAT SEI KILLED HIMSELF TO GET EVEN...
THEY DECIDED THE REASON FOR REI'S OUTBURST WAS THAT HE COULDN'T SAVE HIS BROTHER.
BUT WHY HE COMMITTED SUICIDE WAS STILL UP IN THE AIR, SO THERE WAS STILL A LOT OF SPECULATION.

I'M FINE,
I'M FINE...
WATCH IT, SHIORI
AAAHH!
THE WAVES ARE CHASING ME!
SHIORI... YOU'RE SO CLUMSY.


I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT SEI,
BUT HE WAS FAR FROM BEING WEAK.
HE DIDN'T HAVE A TEMPER LIKE REI, BUT HE WAS REALLY STUBBORN, AND HAD A STRONG SENSE OF JUSTICE.
HE HATED VIOLENCE AND ANYTHING UNFAIR.
I THINK IT WAS DURING 8TH GRADE...
THAT SEI BECAME A TARGET OF A BUNCH OF BULLIES THAT EVEN THE TEACHERS COULDN'T HANDLE.
EVEN SO, HE STUCK UP FOR OTHER PEOPLE WHO WERE BEING PUSHED AROUND.
EVERYONE ELSE WAS SCARED OF RETALIATION AND KEPT THEIR MOUTHS SHUT, NOT SEI
BUT THEY FOUGHT BACK SO HARD THAT I TOLD SEI HE SHOULD SAY SOMETHING TO ONE OF OUR TEACHERS.
IT'S POINTLESS. THAT'LL JUST MAKE IT WORSE.
I JUST HAVE TO WAIT IT OUT UNTIL THEY GET TIRED OF IT.

QUIT DRAWING TO SHOW OFF.
I HOPE YOU BROUGHT THE MONEY LIKE WE TOLD YOU.
YOU'RE SMART. SO YOU KNOW THERE'S NO POINT IN GOING AGAINST US, RIGHT?
SEI, YOU'RE SO SMART. ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'RE GOOD-LOOKING AND A GREAT ARTIST.
WOW! WE LOVE YOU!
れいなは
HEY, SEI!
THEN AT LEAST TALK TO REI ABOUT IT.
I CAN'T.
DON'T EVER TELL REI..
BUT FINALLY, I COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE AND I DID TELL REI...

DAMN, THAT HURTS!
AAARRRRGH!
OH..
OHH.
THIS...
...IS HIS BROTHER.

HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU PUNCH MY BROTHER?
I...I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T REMEMBER.
OH...
YOU HIT HIM MORE TIMES THAN YOU CAN REMEMBER?
HUH!?
REI!

REI!
GET OUT OF HERE!
STOP IT! STOP!
IF YOU EVER TOUCH MY BROTHER AGAIN..
THIS'LL BE NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT I'LL DO TO YOU!

THEY WERE IN THE WRONG AND REI JUST GOT SUSPENDED,
BUT IT REALLY BOTHERED SEI.
HE COULDN'T STAND THE FACT THAT REI WAS BEING PUNISHED BECAUSE OF HIM.
SO REI WAS KILLING SEI IN HIS OWN WAY.
!
BESIDES JUST BEING TWINS,
THOSE TWO HAD SUCH A STRONG BOND.
THEY PROTECTED EACH OTHER ....
THAT'S WHY...
I REALLY WANTED TO KNOW_

中央通り西店
カラオケ
WHOOOO
WHY SEI KILLED HIMSELF,
AND WHY REI SAID SUCH A THING.
I WANTED TO COME HERE TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH.

HARUMI, WHERE'S KIRA?
!
THE SCHOOL FAIR HAS BEEN A GREAT SUCCESS. THANK YOU, EVERYONE!
SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING TO WAIT FOR REI AT SCHOOL.
HEY, TATSUYA.
THAT SHIORI GIRL IS REI'S OLD GIRLFRIEND, RIGHT?
ISN'T THAT A BAD IDEA?
TO LEAVE THOSE TWO ALONE?
BUT REI SEEMED A LITTLE DIFFERENT TODAY....
SHUT UP! REI ISN'T THAT BAD.
.....

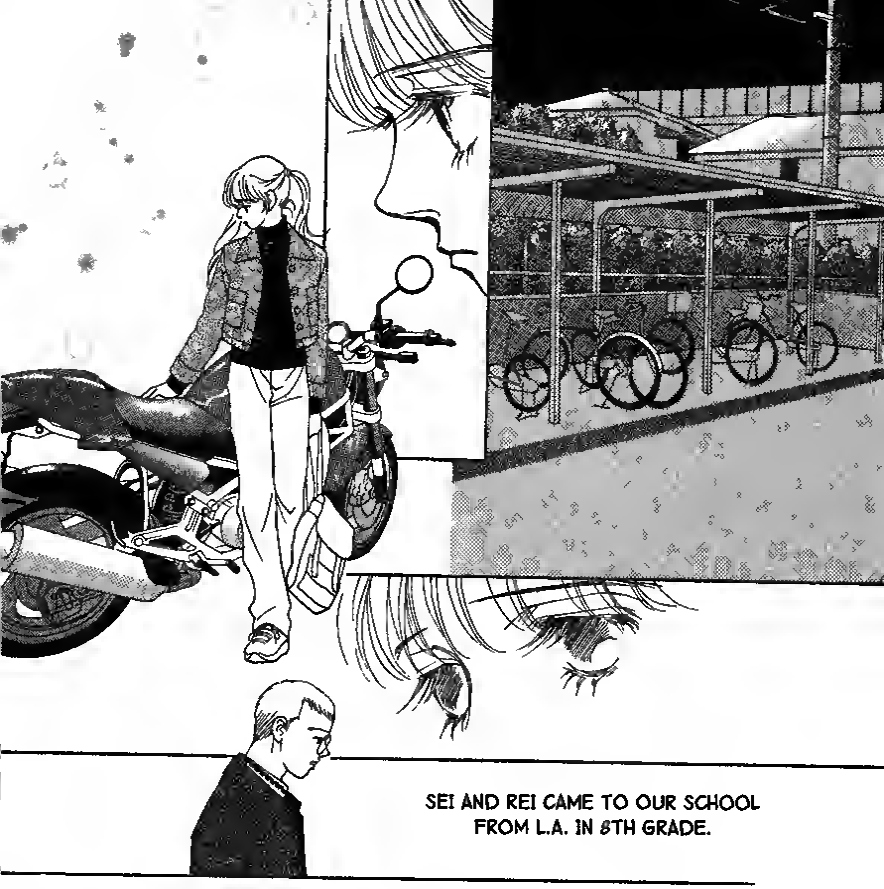
THANK YOU FOR TAKING ME HOME
I HAD A LOT OF FUN TODAY.
WHEN CAN I SEE YOU AGAIN?
HUH?
HM... HUH?
I'M BUSY TOO, YOU KNOW.
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE HUMORING YOUR EVERY WHIM.
I'M SO GLAD...
YOU'RE ALIVE.

カチ カチ
チ
クス…
HEY,
SINCE YOU'RE HERE, CAN YOU PUT THIS ON FOR ME?
OH…
CALM DOWN.
YOU'LL BREAK THE CHAIN IF YOU'RE THAT ANNOYED.

DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE THAT BADLY?
BECAUSE THAT GIRL IS WAITING?
I DON'T THINK SHE'LL LAST.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SHE LIKES YOU THAT MUCH.
SHE GAVE YOU UP TO ME...
THE SECOND I GAVE HER A LOOK.
I WOULD NEVER DO THAT.
NO MATTER WHAT, I WOULD NEVER LET ANOTHER GIRL NEAR YOU.

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED TO ME...
NO MATTER WHAT NAMES I WAS CALLED, I'D NEVER LEAVE THE SIDE OF SOMEONE I LOVED.
SEE YOU LATER.

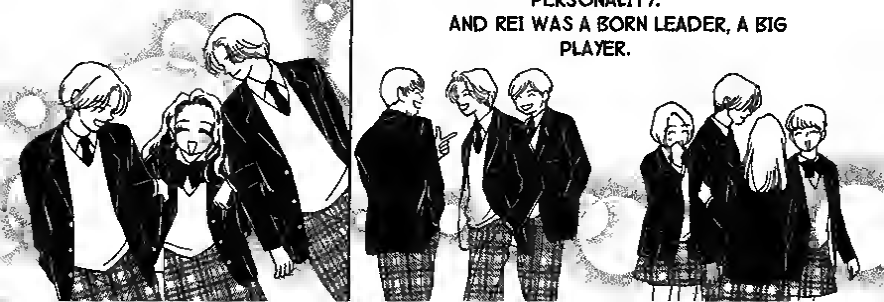
ジャリ!



SEI AND REI CAME TO OUR SCHOOL FROM L.A. IN 8TH GRADE.

THEY'D HAVE STOOD OUT EVEN IF THEY WEREN'T TWINS.
THE ENTIRE SCHOOL COULDN'T STOP TALKING ABOUT THEM.
THE GIRLS ADORED SEI FOR HIS QUIET PERSONALITY.
AND REI WAS A BORN LEADER, A BIG PLAYER.

BRING SHIORI INTO THE MIX, AND THE THREESOME WAS THE ENVY OF EVERYONE IN THE ENTIRE SCHOOL.



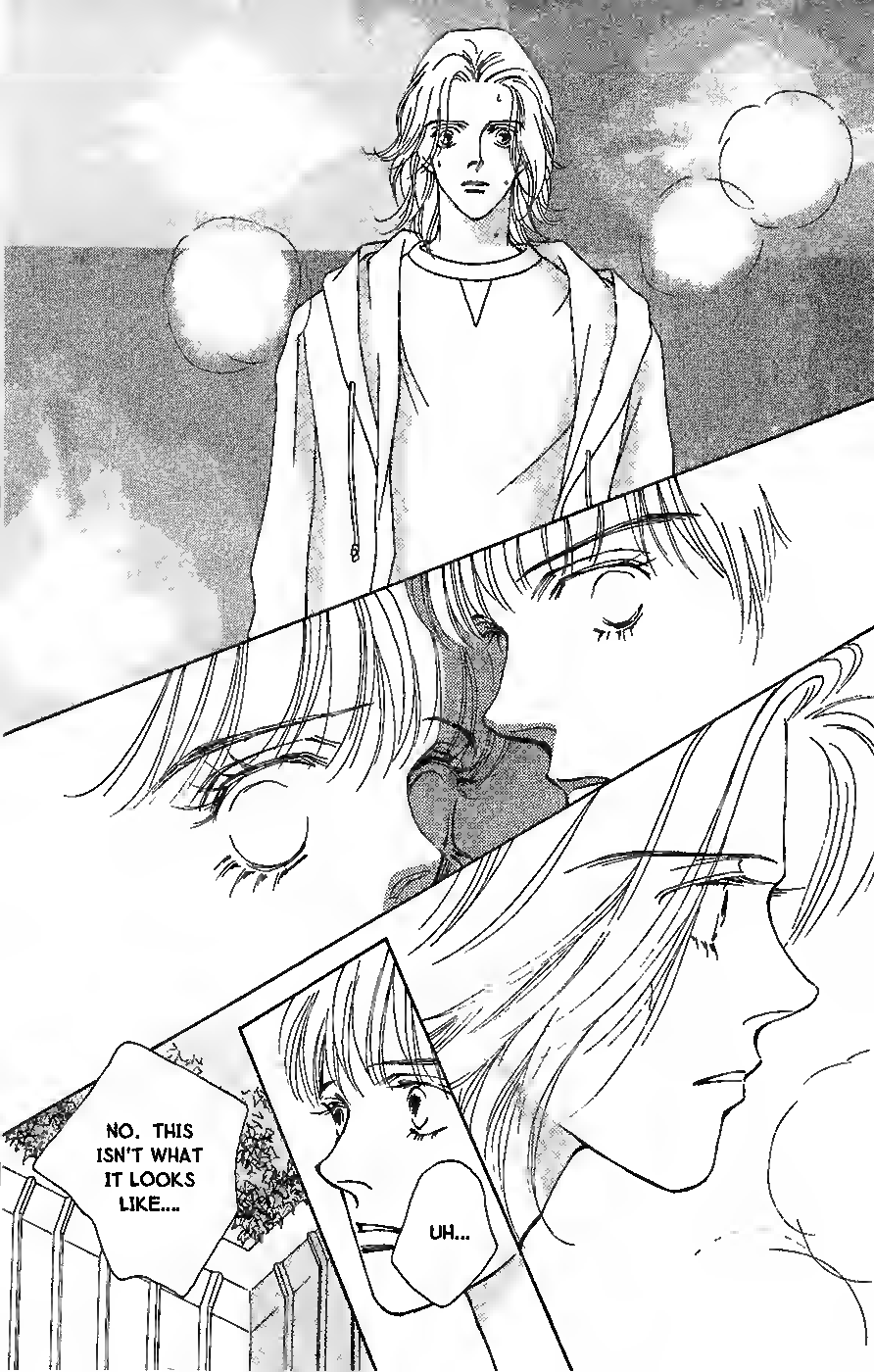
I WAS IN THE ART CLUB WITH SEI. WE WERE GOOD FRIENDS, SO I NATURALLY BECAME PART OF THEIR CIRCLE, BUT I WAS ALWAYS SORT OF A FIFTH WHEEL.
BUT THE TIMES THE FOUR OF US SPENT TOGETHER- REI, SEI, SHIORI AND ME- WERE AWESOME. UNTIL REI STARTED GOING OUT WITH SHIORI, THAT IS...
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN SEI AND REI.
I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING.
YOUR OWNER'S TAKING A WHILE TO COME BACK..

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED... TWO YEARS AGO.
I'M SO STUPID.
THERE'S NO POINT IN THINKING ABOUT IT.
REI!
IT'S PATHETIC
TO JUST WAIT HERE...

UM...
I GOT WORRIED BECAUSE IT'S GETTING LATE.
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR A GIRL TO BE ALONE AT SCHOOL AT NIGHT.
TOO DANGEROUS.
BUT...
REI TOLD ME TO WAIT FOR HIM.
TATSUYA!
I'M STUPID,
AND NAIVE.

YOU SHOULO BE MORE OEMANDING.
I KNOW YOU CARE ABOUT REI, BUT IF YOU JUST OO AS YOU'RE TOLD,
YOU CAN'T REALLY CALL YOURSELF MUCH OF A GIRLFRIENO, CAN YOU?
TO BE SO ACCOMMO-DATING NO MATTER WHAT CAN BE BORING ,
YOU KNOW. FOR A GUY..
I...
IT'S NOT THAT I'M ACCOMMO-OATING.
I'M JUST SCAREO
THAT REI WON'T LIKE ME.
I OON'T WANT TO BE A PAIN...

TATSUYA...!?
UH...


NO. THIS ISN'T WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE....
UH...

!
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR WANDERING OFF LIKE THAT.
I'M NOT TOTALLY OVER KIRA EITHER, YOU KNOW.
JUST BECAUSE WE'RE FRIENDS, DON'T EXPECT ME TO JUST WAIT AROUND AND WATCH ENVIOUSLY.
IF YOU'RE NOT CARE-FUL, YOU'LL BE THE ONE CRYING.
LATER.
WE'LL BE AT THE KARAOKE PLACE ACROSS FROM THE TRAIN STATION. COME BY IF YOU FEEL LIKE IT.
IT...
THAT'S NOT WHAT TATSUYA MEANT...

I WAS UPSET, SO HE WAS CONSOLING ME....
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON HE WOULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT..
I KNOW.
!
HE'S NOT THE TYPE OF GUY TO MAKE A PASS AT SOMEONE ELSE'S GIRLFRIEND.
UNLIKE SOMEONE ELSE WE KNOW.
SHIORI WASN'T MY OLD GIRLFRIEND.
SHE WAS GOING OUT WITH SEI.
AT LEAST, THEY CALLED IT GOING OUT. THEY DIDN'T EVEN HOLD HANDS...
THEY WERE PRETTY MUCH JUST FRIENDS...

HE WOULD MAKE UP ALL SORTS OF EXCUSES...
POOR SHIORI WAS SO DISTRESSED THAT HE WOULDN'T EVEN KISS HER...
HE WAS ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
HIS SENSE OF SPIRITUAL AND MORAL RESPONSIBILI-TY...
SO I STOLE HER.
WE HAVE THE SAME FACE, THE SAME VOICE.
TO SHIORI, SEI AND I WERE PRETTY MUCH ONE AND THE SAME.
SHE DIDN'T CARE WHICH ONE.

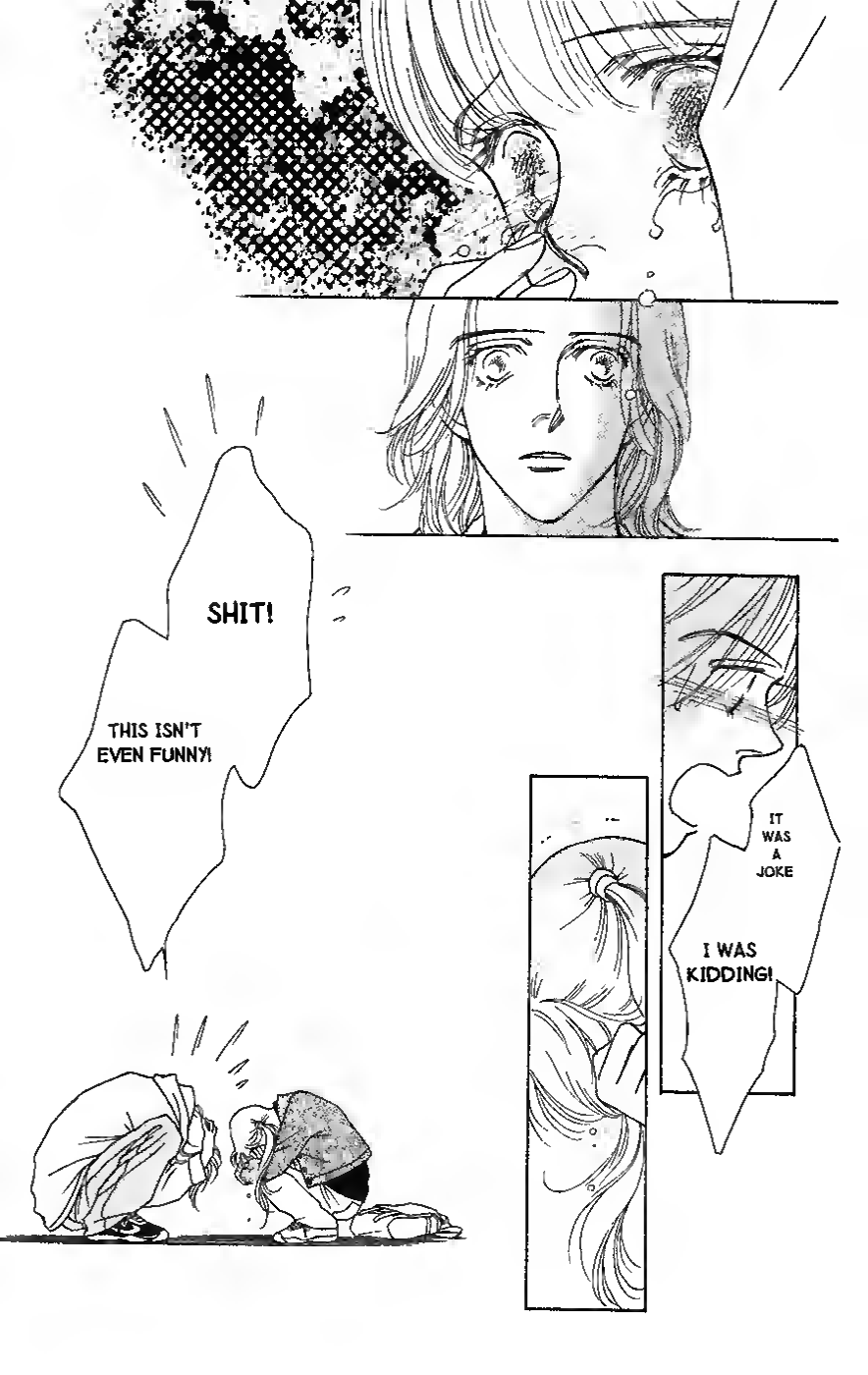
I JUST HAD LESS INTEGRITY.
IT'S ALL INSTINCT WITH ME.
I DON'T THINK SO...
YOU REALLY LIKED HER, DIDN'T YOU?
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SEI, YOU JUST COULDN'T HELP YOURSELF.
WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
I KNOW, BECAUSE EVEN WITH ME_
YOU WERE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT TATSUYA.

YOU OBVIOUSLY CARE THAT MUCH ABOUT TATSUYA.
IF IT HAD BEEN SEI, IT MUST HAVE BEEN TWICE THAT BAD..
YOU'RE AMAZING...
BUT YOU LIKED HER SO MUCH, YOU COULDN'T GIVE UP, RIGHT?
YOU'RE A BETTER PERSON THAN I AM.
I'M TOTALLY PISSED OFF...
I SAW YOU AND TATSUYA, AND EVEN THOUGH I KNOW TATSUYA ISN'T THAT TYPE OF GUY,
I'M STILL REALLY PISSED OFF
!

COME TO THINK OF IT..
A LOT OF THINGS PISSED ME OFF TODAY..
WHATEVER..
LET'S GO HANG OUT WITH EVERYONE.
HE SAID IT WAS THE KARAOKE BOX IN FRONT OF THE STATION, RIGHT?
YOU SHOULD BE MORE DEMANDING.
YOU CAN'T CALL YOURSELF MUCH OF A GIRLFRIEND IF YOU JUST DO AS HE SAYS....

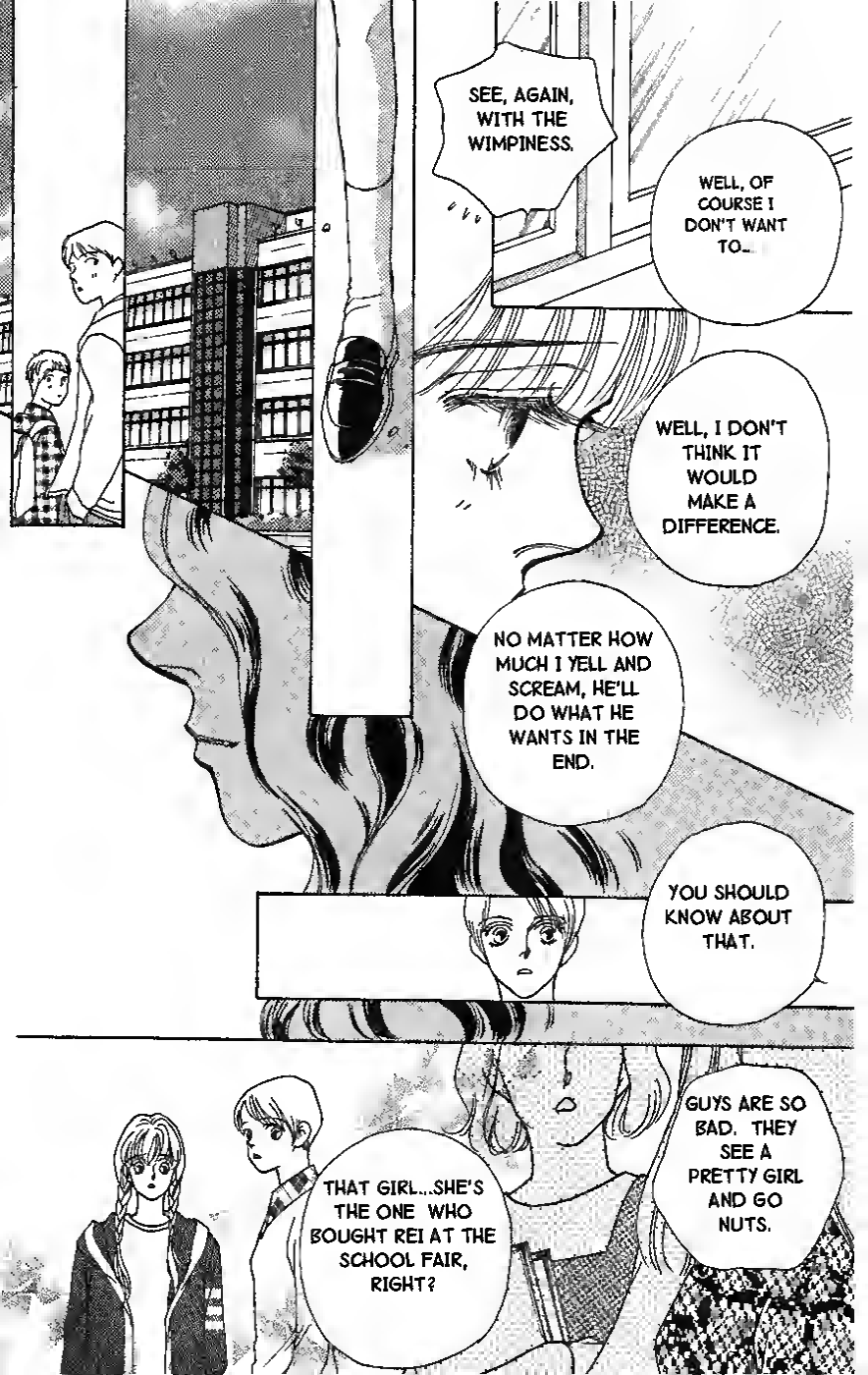
THERE WAS SO MUCH GOING ON TODAY,
WE DIDN'T GET TO HANG OUT... JUST THE TWO OF US.
SO...
P... PLEASE.
JUST BE WITH ME FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
THAT'S PATHETIC.
JUST FIVE MINUTES.
I WANT TO BE ALONE WITH YOU.

JUST KIDDING


SHIT!
THIS ISN'T EVEN FUNNY!
IT WAS A JOKE
I WAS KIDDING!

LET'S JUST LEAVE THEM ALONE FOR A WHILE.
HEY, WHERE'S KIRA?
REI'S NOT BACK YET?
TATSUYA!
REI'S BACK.
WHAT? SO WHY DIDN'T YOU BRING THEM?
FORGET ABOUT THEM.
THEY WON'T BE COMING.

I GET IT.
INSTEAD OF HANGING OUT WITH US...
YOU'D RATHER GET ALL LOVEY-DOVEY WITH REI.
ANYWAY, I'M GLAD YOU GUYS ARE STILL OKAY.
BUT IS IT REALLY OVER BETWEEN REI AND THAT SHIORI GIRL?
IF YOU REALLY LOVE REI, DON'T EVER LET HIM GO.
YEAH... THAT'S WHAT REI SAID.
BUT YOU'RE JUST TOO GOOO-HEARTED.
REI'S NOT OEVIOUS, SO I OOUBT HE'O BE TWO-TIMING YOU.


SEE, AGAIN, WITH THE WIMPINESS.
WELL, OF COURSE I DON'T WANT TO...
WELL, I DON'T THINK IT WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I YELL AND SCREAM, HE'LL DO WHAT HE WANTS IN THE END.
YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THAT.
GUYS ARE SO BAD. THEY SEE A PRETTY GIRL AND GO NUTS.
THAT GIRL...SHE'S THE ONE WHO BOUGHT REI AT THE SCHOOL FAIR, RIGHT?

THAT UNIFORM'S FROM SEIWA, ISN'T IT?
DON'T YOU HAVE TO BE SMART AND RICH TO GO THERE?
ARE YOU A LITTLE PRINCESS?
NO , I'M JUST A NORMAL GIRL.
WAIT, HARUMI!
HEY!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE?
HARUMI!

I'M JUST HERE TO SEE REI.
IS THAT A PROBLEM?
I'M NOT TRYING TO STIR THINGS UP.
IT'S FUNNY THAT YOU'RE GETTING ALL WORKED UP BECAUSE A FRIEND FROM JUNIOR HIGH CAME TO VISIT HIM.
クス.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WENT ON BETWEEN YOU AND REI IN THE PAST,
BUT HE'S GOING OUT WITH KIRA NOW.
WHY DON'T YOU STOP TRYING TO STIR THINGS UP?
TO GET SO WORKED UP ABOUT IT...
MAYBE IT'S NOT GOING SO WELL BETWEEN REI AND THAT GIRL.
クス.

HARUMI!
STOP!
LET ME GO. I'LL KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO HER!
AAAHHH!
YOU BITCH!
!
WHAT A PRETTY BRACELET!
CAN I HAVE IT?'
SORRY, NO... IT'S MY GOOD-LUCK CHARM.

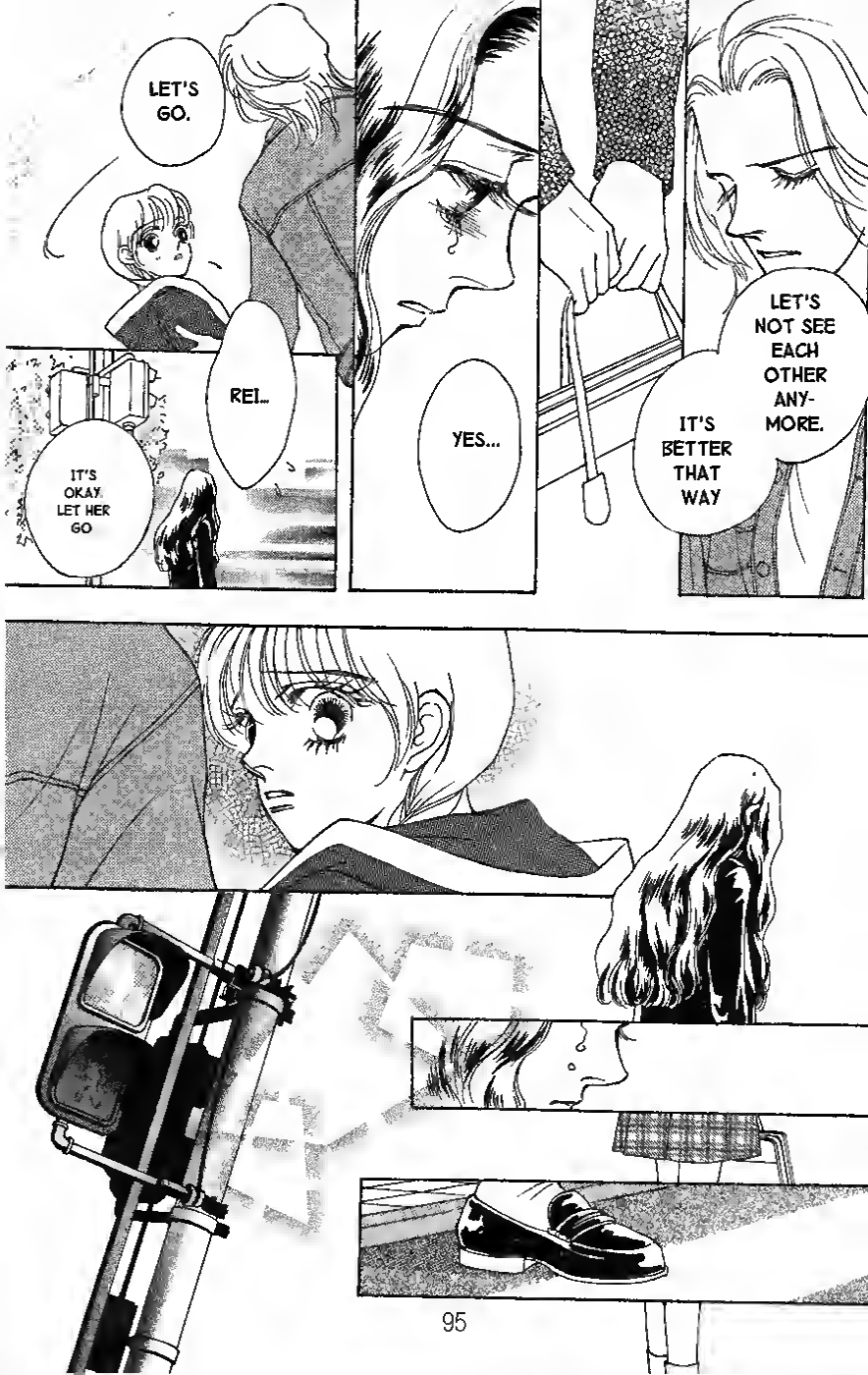
SHIORI?
TAKE IT OFF RIGHT NOW.
TAKE IT OFF!
WHY?
THAT'S REI'S.
WHY ARE YOU WEARING THAT BRACELET?
I TOLD YOU TO TAKE IT OFF!
N...
NOOO!

SHIORI!

YOU PUSHED ME ON PURPOSE...
YOU JUST SOUND ALL SWEET IN FRONT OF REI...
IN YOUR HEART, YOU THINK I'M JUST IN YOUR WAY.
WHAT A BITCH.
YOU DID IT ON PURPOSE.
I... I'M SORRY...
I HATE YOU!

GIVE
IT
A
REST!

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN SEE HIM THE SAME WAY ANYMORE.
I GUESS REI WILL EVEN RAISE HIS HAND TO A GIRL SOMETIMES.
BUT I'M SURPRISED..
DAMN. CAT FIGHTS CAN BE VIOLENT IN THEIR OWN WAY..
APOLOGIZE TO KIRA.
I'M... SORRY
DON'T COME BY HERE ANY-MORE, SHIORI.
IT'S IRRITAT-ING.


LET'S GO.
REI...
IT'S OKAY. LET HER GO
YES...
IT'S BETTER THAT WAY
LET'S NOT SEE EACH OTHER ANY-MORE.

REI!
SHIORI...!?
!
SHIORI!

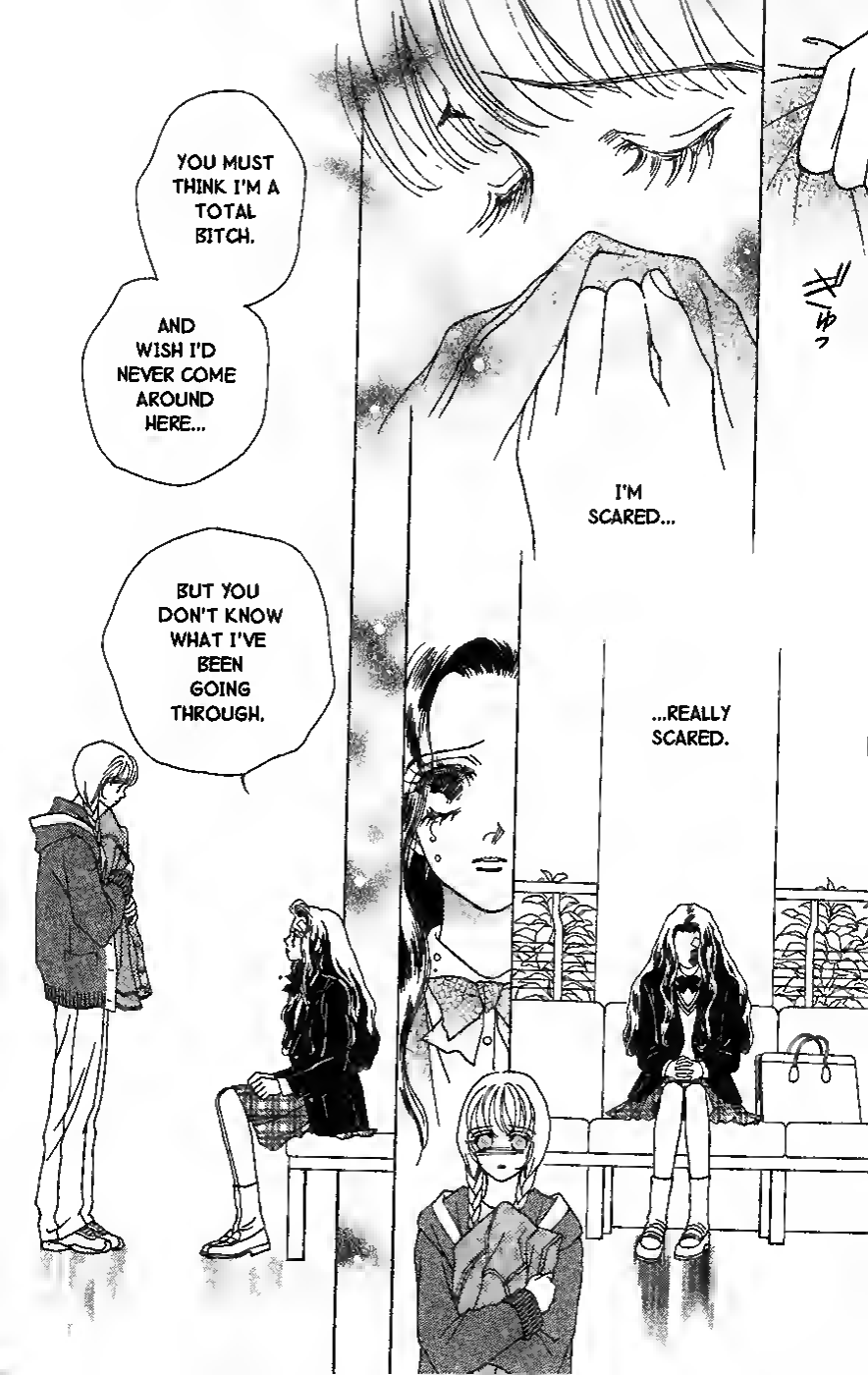
REI!!
SHIORI!

REI!!

THERE'S BEEN AN ACCI-DENT!
SOMEONE GOT RUN OVER!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
ざわ
ざわ
SHIORI?
WHY DID YOU DO SUCH A STUPID THING....
BECAUSE I MIGHT AS WELL BE DEAD...
SEI'S GONE, AND NOW I'M LOSING YOU, TOO...

I CAN'T TAKE THAT.
I CAN'T GO ON LIVING.
ARE YOU OKAY?
ARE...
SHE'S JUST CRYING FROM THE SHOCK.
OH...
SHE'S OKAY.
NOT HER. I WAS TALKING ABOUT YOU...
WHAT!?

I'D RATHER DIE...
I CAN'T STAND
TO LOSE YOU.
BUT TO DO THAT...
ONE FALSE MOVE AND
THEY BOTH...


YOU MUST THINK I'M A TOTAL BITCH.
AND WISH I'D NEVER COME AROUND HERE...
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH.
I'M SCARED...
...REALLY SCARED.

I'VE BEEN WAITING THIS WHOLE TIME...
...TO SEE REI AGAIN,
...TO BE WITH HIM AGAIN...
I'VE DREAMED OF THIS DAY SINCE LONG BEFORE YOU EVEN MET REI.
IF ONLY SEI WERE STILL HERE,
OUR RELATIONSHIP WOULD NEVER HAVE ENDED.
BUT...
PLEASE, GIVE REI BACK TO ME.
GIVE HIM BACK....
I... I DON'T ...

I DON'T WANT TO.....
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE REI'S SIDE EITHER.
I DON'T THINK GIVING HIM BACK IS REALLY MY DECISION.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M HOLDING HIM BACK.
I'M JUST WITH HIM BECAUSE I LOVE HIM.
I WANT TO BE WITH HIM FOREVER.
SO...YOU DON'T MIND THAT I'M IN LOVE WITH REI?
YOU WON'T BE MAD IF I SEE REI AGAIN?
I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE.
PLEASE... DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.

DON'T MAKE ME SAY ANY MORE.
HE'S THE ONE WHO HAS TO DECIDE...
OH...
I KNEW YOU REMINDED ME OF SOMEONE.
YOU REMIND ME OF SEI.

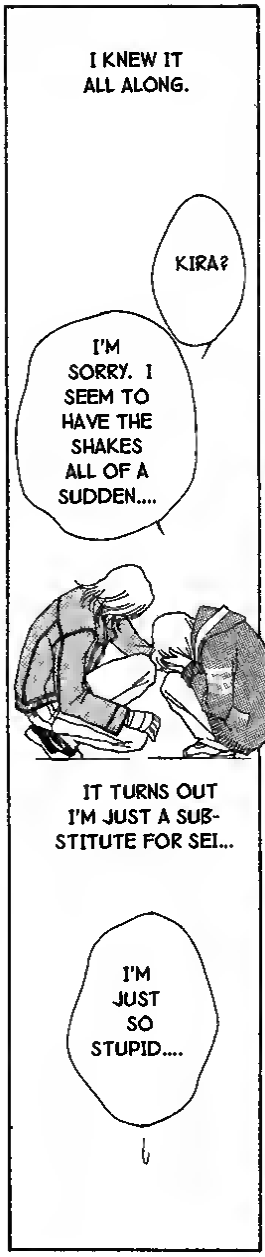
SEI SAID THE SAME THING..
WHEN I TOLD HIM I LIKED REI.
IT'S YOUR RIGHT TO LIKE WHOEVER YOU WANT TO LIKE...
I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO BLAME YOU...
HE SAID HE WOULD FORGIVE ME...
BUT NOW HE'S DEAD.
YOU AREN'T GOING TO DIE TOO, ARE YOU?
PLEASE DON'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
OR REI WILL JUST GO AWAY AGAIN.....

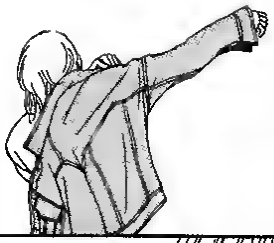
TAKE CARE!
THANK YOU.
REI!
HE'LL LEAVE ME AND GO AWAY.
ARE YOU OKAY?
NO BIG DEAL. I JUST GOT A COUPLE OF STITCHES.
SHIORI!

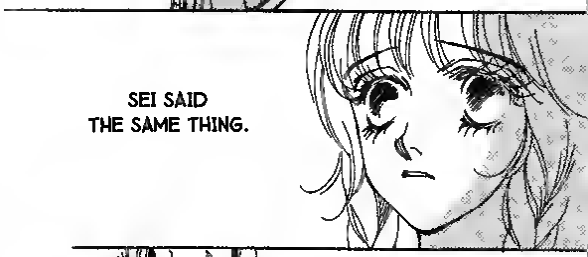
REI, KASHINO?
I'M FINE... REI PROTECTED ME.
MOMMY!
THE POLICE CALLED TO TELL ME THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT, SO I RUSHED OVER..
IT... IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
HOW'S YOUR FATHER?
WELL...
I'M LIVING ALONE RIGHT NOW.
PLEASE LET ME TAKE CARE OF THE MEDICAL BILL.
LET'S GO HOME, SHIORI.
I SEE...

REI...
WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN?
REI...
I'M NOT GOING TO SEE SHIORI ANYMORE.
BUT...
SHIORI DOESN'T THINK THAT, DOES SHE?
SHIORI'S OLD LADY WOULDN'T ALLOW IT ANYWAY.
SHE DOESN'T LIKE ME.
SHE THINKS I'M CURSED OR SOMETHING.
SHE SAID SOMETHING THAT AWFUL TO YOU?
SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO. I CAN SEE IT IN HER EYES.

SHE LOOKS AT ME WITH THE SAME EYES AS MY FATHER DOES.
クス…
DON'T SQUEEZE MY JACKET SO TIGHT.
!
I...I'M SORRY.
IT'S OKAY. YOU WASHED IT FOR ME, RIGHT?
THANKS.


I KNEW IT ALL ALONG.
KIRA?
I'M SORRY. I SEEM TO HAVE THE SHAKES ALL OF A SUDDEN....
IT TURNS OUT I'M JUST A SUB-STITUTE FOR SEI...
I'M JUST SO STUPID....



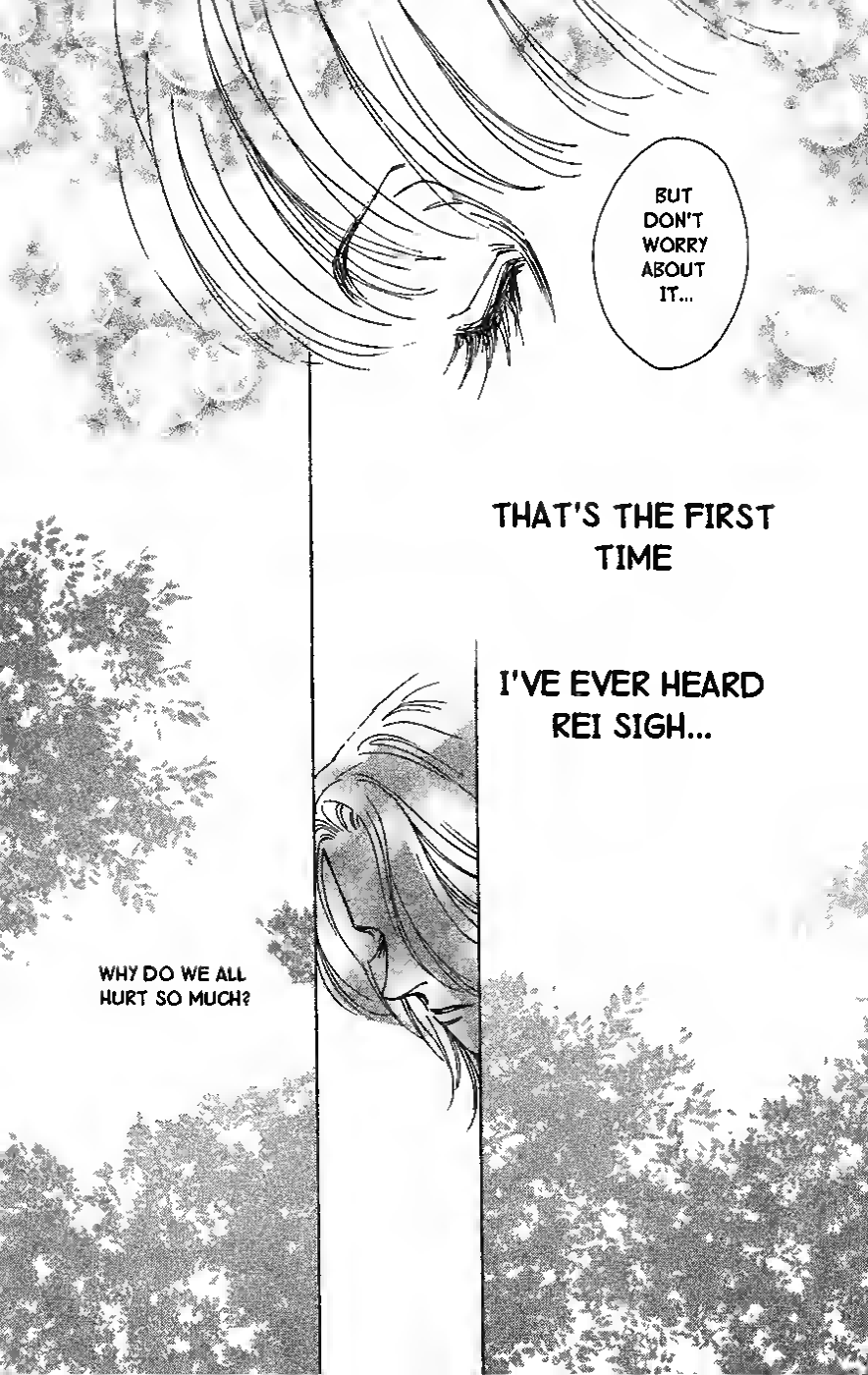

SEI SAID THE SAME THING.

YOU REMIND ME OF SEI.
SHIORI...

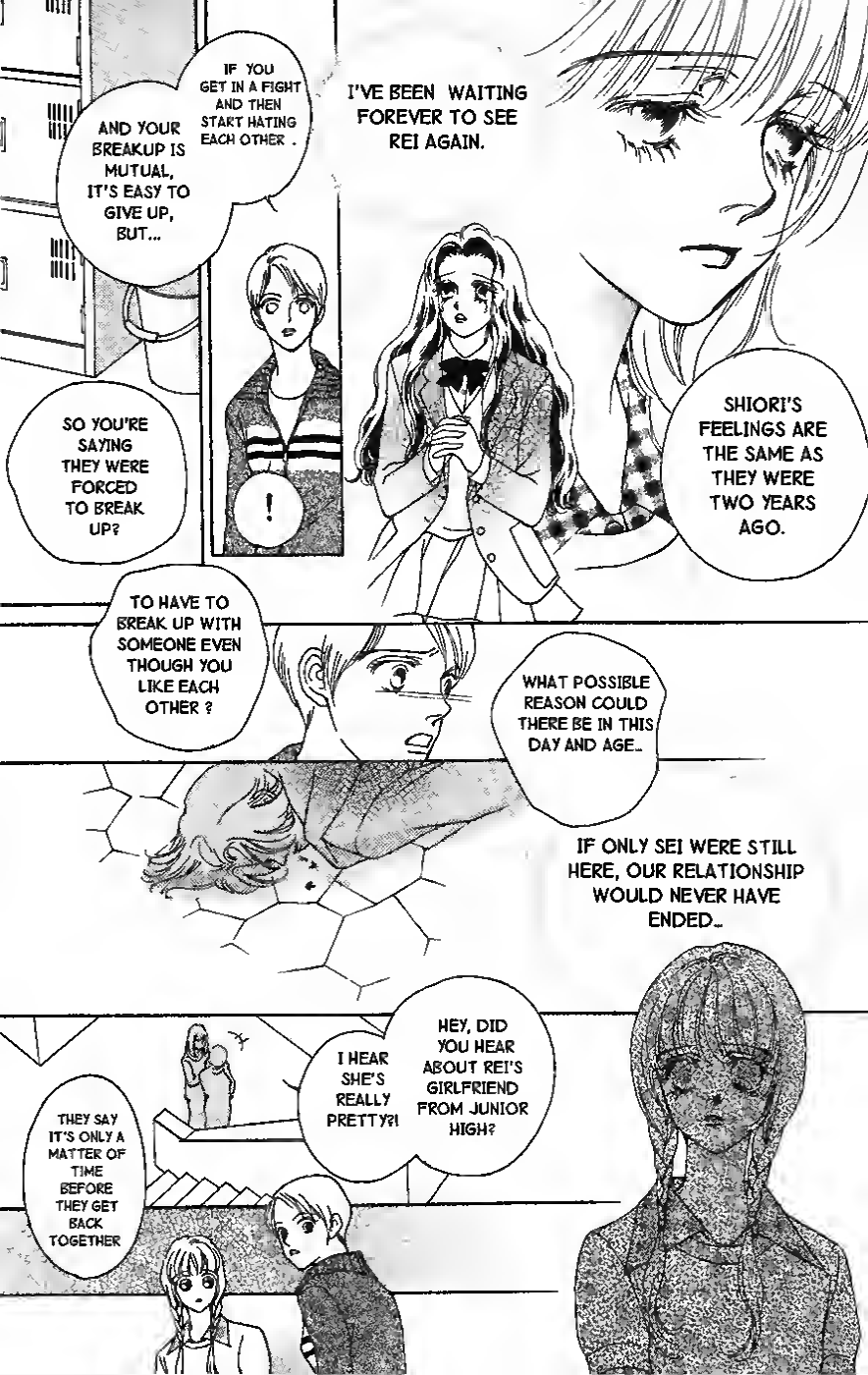
YOU REMIND ME OF SEI.

I'LL BE FINE IF I REST HERE FOR A WHILE.
THE WAY HE WORRIES ABOUT ME AND IS SO SWEET TO ME..
IT'S ALL BECAUSE I REMIND HIM OF SEI.
I'M OKAY...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
DO YOU WANT ME TO GET YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK?
THE ONLY PEOPLE IN REI'S HEART ARE SEI AND SHIORI...
!
COULD YOU JUST HOLD MY HAND FOR A WHILE?
COULD YOU HOLD MY HAND LIKE AT THE SCHOOL FAIR?

ABOUT SHIORI...
I'M SURE IT WON'T HELP IF I TELL YOU NOT TO WORRY ABOUT IT.


BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME
I'VE EVER HEARD REI SIGH...
WHY DO WE ALL HURT SO MUCH?

I KNOW SHE'S PRETTY, BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WENT OUT WITH SUCH A BASKET CASE..
REI'S OUT OF HIS MIND.
.....
SHE'S OUT OF CONTROL!
TO TRY TO KILL HERSELF BECAUSE HE WOULDN'T PAY ATTENTION TO HER..
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
BUT SHE'S REALLY CUTE...
I'M THE ONE WHO STOLE REI,
I'M THE ONE WHO'S IN THE WAY...
TO SHIORI, IT'S THE OPPOSITE.
THE WAY SHE WENT ABOUT TRYING TO GET HIM BACK WAS CRAZY,
BUT SHE REALLY MEANS IT..
SHE MIGHT TAKE REI AWAY FROM YOU.
YOU IDIOT! WHAT ARE YOU IMPRESSED FOR?


I'VE BEEN WAITING FOREVER TO SEE REI AGAIN.
SHIORI'S FEELINGS ARE THE SAME AS THEY WERE TWO YEARS AGO.
IF YOU GET IN A FIGHT AND THEN START HATING EACH OTHER .
AND YOUR BREAKUP IS MUTUAL, IT'S EASY TO GIVE UP, BUT...
!
SO YOU'RE SAYING THEY WERE FORCED TO BREAK UP?
TO HAVE TO BREAK UP WITH SOMEONE EVEN THOUGH YOU LIKE EACH OTHER ?
WHAT POSSIBLE REASON COULD THERE BE IN THIS DAY AND AGE..
IF ONLY SEI WERE STILL HERE, OUR RELATIONSHIP WOULD NEVER HAVE ENDED..
HEY, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT REI'S GIRLFRIEND FROM JUNIOR HIGH?
I HEAR SHE'S REALLY PRETTY?!
THEY SAY IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY GET BACK TOGETHER

IT SEEMED LIKE THINGS WERE GOING PRETTY WELL WITH KIRA.
BUT SHE'S ONE OF THOSE CONVENIENT GIRLFRIENDS, ISN'T SHE?
SHE'S QUIET AND NEVER GETS MAD. THAT'S WHY REI...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
TATSUYA!
HARUMI, PLEASE STOP!
AAAAH-HHHH
HEY, WAIT!
WHO SAID IT?!
BUT THESE GUYS WERE TALKING ALL THIS SHIT, SAYING WHATEVER THEY WANTED.
HARUMI!
FORGET IT, HARUMI!
WE HEARD SOME UPPER-CLASSMEN TALKING ABOUT IT.
WE'RE NOT THE ONES WHO SAID IT.
DAMN IT.

!
THEY WERE SAYING REI WAS GETTING BACK TOGETHER WITH THAT SHIORI...
YOU'VE GOT QUITE A TEMPER.
WHY WERE YOU FIGHTING?
BUT....
THAT'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO GET ALL WORKED UP.
IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE IT WAS KIRA THAT I WAS ABLE TO LET HIM GO.
I...
I DIDN'T GIVE UP REI FOR THAT GIRL.
I'LL NEVER LET SOMEONE LIKE THAT BE REI'S GIRL-FRIEND.
.....

I GUESS SHE STILL LIKES HIM.
THAT REI...
SHIORI?
I DON'T MIND IF YOU STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL,
BUT AT LEAST EAT SOME-THING.
SHIORI?
SHIORI! SHIORI!
THE TRANSFER STUDENTS FROM L.A. ARE TWINS.

SEI, CHECK IT OUT. SHE LOOKS LIKE AUNT MITSUKO'S DOG.
YOU MEAN THAT POMERANIAN?
MAV=:
RIGHT?
THAT'S MEAN.
YOU LAUGHED!

...
ARE YOU SLEEPING? ARE YOU THINKING?
HEY.
MM... I WAS THINKING AND THEN I FELL ASLEEP.
THE GIRLS ARE GOING CRAZY...
...ABOUT THAT SHIORI GIRL.
!
NOT THAT I CARE WHO YOU GO OUT WITH.

JUST DON'T MAKE KIRA CRY.
I TOLD YOU SHIORI ISN'T MY GIRLFRIEND.
SHE WAS MY BROTHER'S GIRLFRIEND
YOUR BROTH-ER...
YOU MEAN YOUR TWIN THAT DIED?
REI HAS A TWIN BROTHER...
!
KIRA TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR BROTHER SEI...
SHE SAID NOT TO BRING UP THE SUBJECT WITH YOU.....
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAP-PENED IN THE PAST, BUT DON'T MAKE HER WORRY SO MUCH.
HOW'D YOUR BROTHER DIE?

...THAT'S WHAT THE PSYCHIATRIST SAID,
BUT I DON'T REALLY KNOW...
SUICIDE.
OH..
I THINK IT WAS A LITTLE HIGHER THAN THIS.
HE JUMPED.
A SUDDEN ADOLESCENT IMPULSE...
NO WONDER KIRA WORRIES SO MUCH.
SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOUR HEALTH, ABOUT YOUR NERVES OR SOMETHING....
WHY WOULD HE KILL HIMSELF...?

D... DON'T BE STUPID.
DON'T BE SO SUSPI-CIOUS.
SHE DEPENDS ON YOU...
I'M JUST THERE IF SHE WANTS SOME-ONE TO TALK TO.
KIRA TALKS TO YOU ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS
!
I'M ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.
YOU KNOW NOW I HAVE YOUNGER BROTNERS AND SISTERS?
I LOOKED AFTER TNEM BECAUSE MY PARENTS HAVE A BUSINESS.
I'VE JUST LEARNED TO TAKE CARE OF PEOPLE.
MY YOUNGEST BROTHER IS STILL IN ELE-MENTARY SCHOOL.

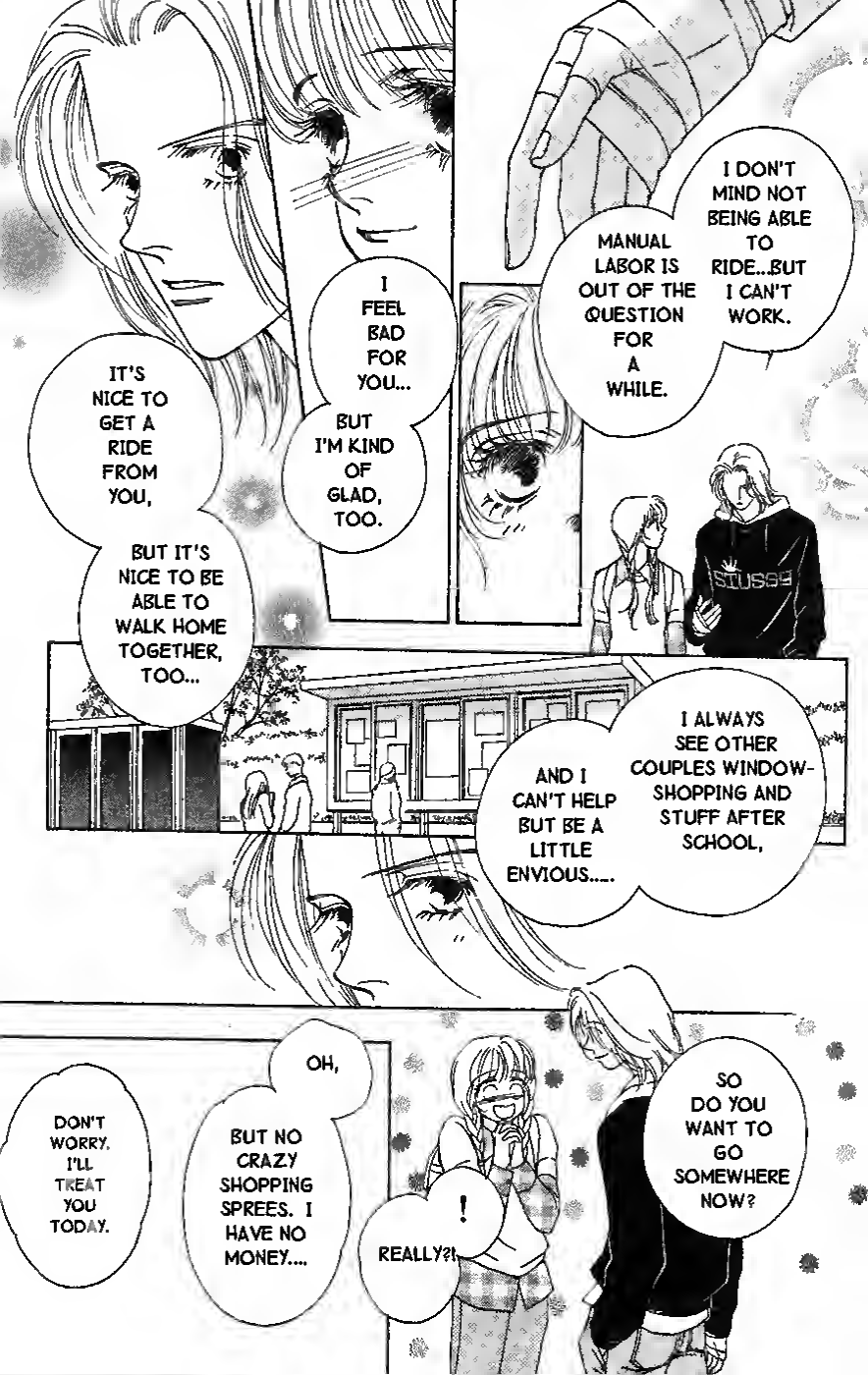
YOUR BROTHERS ARE LUCKY..
TO HAVE AN OLOER BROTHER LIKE YOU.
MY BROTHER HAO IT BAO.
NOT ONLY OIO I NOT LOOK AFTER HIM, I STOLE HIS GIRLFRIENO.
ANO ON TOP OF THAT, THE WAY HE OIED...

THERE'S NO WAY SHIORI AND I COULD BE TOGETHER AFTER THAT.
THERE'S NO WAY THE TWO OF US COULD'VE CARRIED ON LIKE NOTHING WAS WRONG.

I HEARD YOU'RE A GIRL-FRIEND OF CON-VENIENCE?
SO YOU'LL DO WHATEVER I SAY, RIGHT?
STUSSY
カタ…ン
YEAH...
I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO.

PLEASE DON'T GET FED UP WITH ME.
I'M NOT A GOOD, NICE GUY LIKE TATSUYA...
I'M RECKLESS, I HAVE NO INTEGRITY, AND ON TOP OF THAT, I'M A PLAYER, AND I'M STUPID...
BUT PLEASE BE WITH ME.

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT,
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF BAD POINTS...
BUT I LIKE YOU.....
I LOVE YOU.
HOW'S YOUR HAND?
IT'S PRETTY GOOD.
ONLY A LITTLE TIME BEFORE I GET THE STITCHES OUT.


I DON'T MIND NOT BEING ABLE TO RIDE...BUT I CAN'T WORK.
MANUAL LABOR IS OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR A WHILE.
I FEEL BAD FOR YOU...
BUT I'M KIND OF GLAD, TOO.
IT'S NICE TO GET A RIDE FROM YOU,
BUT IT'S NICE TO BE ABLE TO WALK HOME TOGETHER, TOO...
I ALWAYS SEE OTHER COUPLES WINDOW-SHOPPING AND STUFF AFTER SCHOOL,
AND I CAN'T HELP BUT BE A LITTLE ENVIOUS.....
SO DO YOU WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE NOW?
REALLY?!
!
OH,
BUT NO CRAZY SHOPPING SPREES. I HAVE NO MONEY....
DON'T WORRY. I'LL TREAT YOU TODAY.

...I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SHIORI.
I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU...
I'VE BEEN WAITING A WHILE.
TAKEMURA!
STUSSY
TAKEMURA!?
REI!
West High School
WHAT'S WRONG WITH SHIORI?
ACCORDING TO HER MOTHER, SHE'S BEEN HOLED UP IN HER ROOM AND WON'T EVEN EAT.
THE THING IS...
SHE HASN'T BEEN IN SCHOOL AT ALL...

SO SHE WANTED TO KNOW IF YOU COULD GO SEE HER.
HER MOTHER CAME TO ME CRYING.
AND THE THING IS...
SHE SAYS SHE'S BEEN ASKING FOR YOU THE WHOLE TIME.
CAN YOU JUST GIVE ME A BREAK?
I HAVE MY OWN LIFE TO LIVE.
I DON'T WANT TO BE PUSHED AROUND ANYMORE

ARE... ARE YOU OKAY?
JUST LEAVING HER ALONE?
I CAN'T BE BOTHERED WITH HER LITTLE ANTICS.
BUT...
WITH HER, IT'S THE SAME THING...
...AS A BABY THROWING A TANTRUM!
BUT HE SAID SHIORI CAN'T EVEN EAT...
STUSSY

IT'S THE SAME TNING AS A LITTLE KID GETTING A FEVER BECAUSE NE DOESN'T WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
OF BEING TIED DOWN AND PUSNED AROUND..
I'VE WORRIED ABOUT SHIORI MORE TNAN I CARED TO.
ISN'T IT ENOUGN?
I JUST WANT IT TO BE OVER.
I MEAN...
...WNY SNOULD I NAVE TO DEAL WITN NER CHILDISN NYSTERICS?
BUT IT'S NOT OVER FOR SNIORI...

IT'S LIKE YOU'RE FORCING YOURSELF APART.
..PURPOSELY AVOIDING HER.
IT'S NOT OVER FOR YOU, EITHER.
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW THAT?
BECAUSE YOU'RE...
BUT YOU'RE NOT FREE AT ALL.
I TOLD YOU...
THAT'S ALL OVER WITH.
LOOK....
I JUST WANT TO BE FREE FROM ALL OF THAT.
WHY DON'T YOU WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH HER?
BECAUSE SHE WAS YOUR BROTHER'S GIRLFRIEND?
THAT'S BECAUSE I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH HER ANYMORE...
STUSSY

I KNEW YOU LIKED SHIORI...
AND THAT SHIORI WAS ATTRACTED TO YOU.
I DON'T WANT TO TIE YOU DOWN.
I DON'T WANT TO TIE YOU DOWN.
WHAT ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME FOR, REI?
THE REASON YOU'RE TRYING SO HARD TO GET AWAY...
...IS THAT YOU'RE COMPLETELY WRAPPED UP IN IT.
YOU REALLY CAN'T HELP BUT BE INTERESTED IN HER.
NO, SEI. I WAS JUST PLAYING AROUND. I WASN'T REALLY KISSING SHIORI.
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME?
YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT ME?
YOU KNOW, 'CAUSE I'M IRRESPONSIBLE.

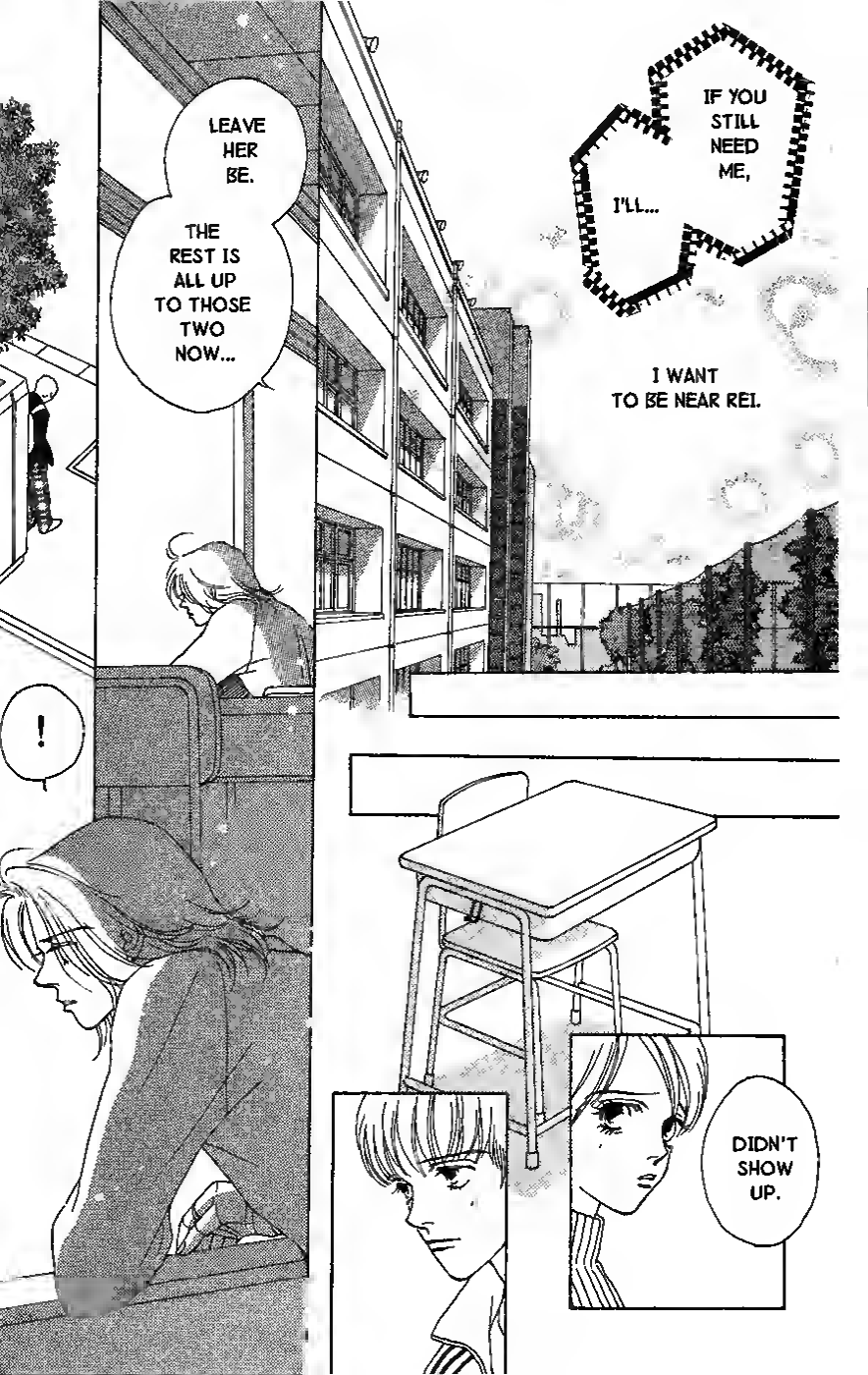
DON'T SOUND SO MUCH LIKE SEI!

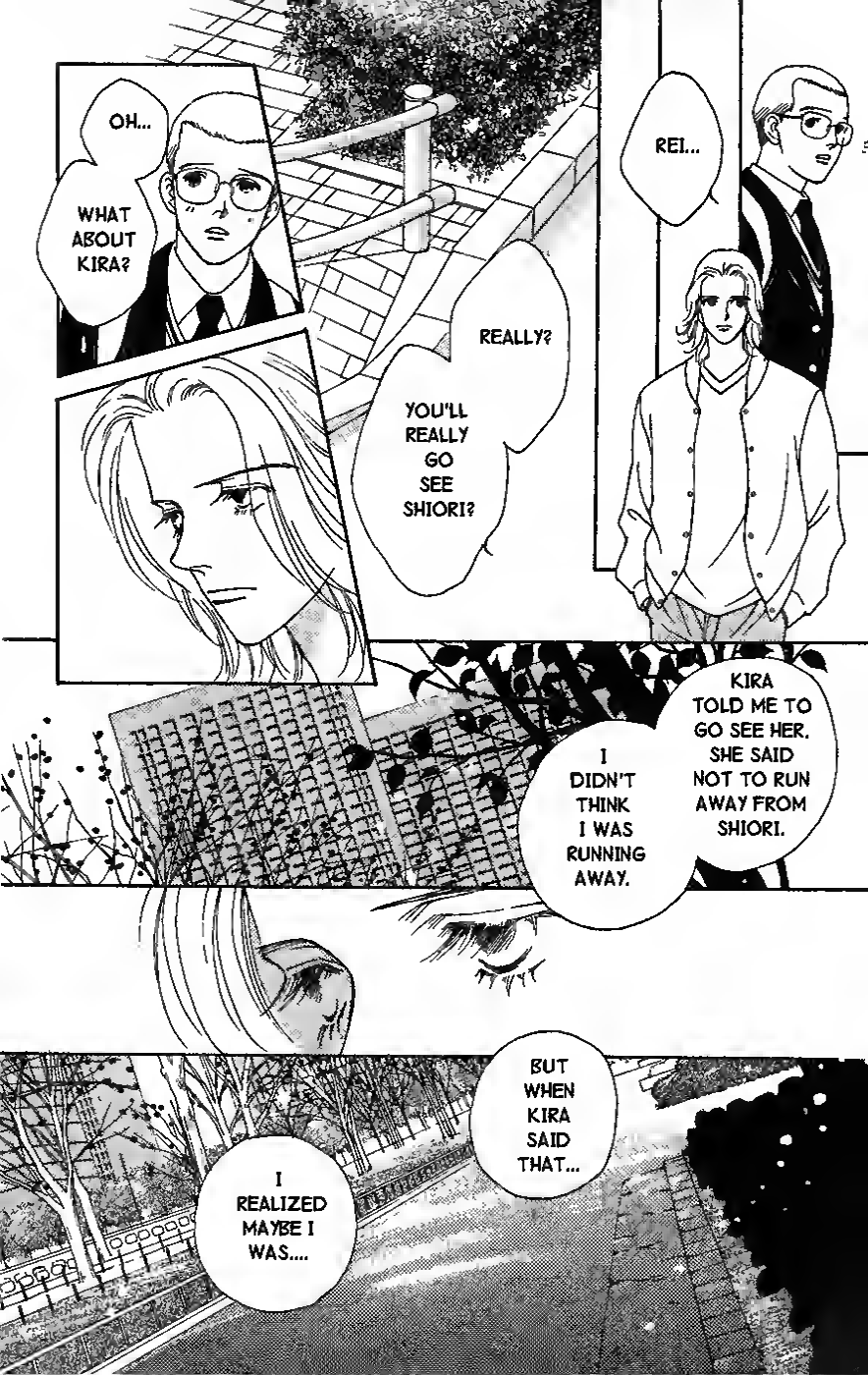
I...
I'M NOT SEI.
I'M...
DON'T CONFUSE ME WITH SEI.

REI!?
ASO RESI.
トゥルルル
トゥルルル
カチャ
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...

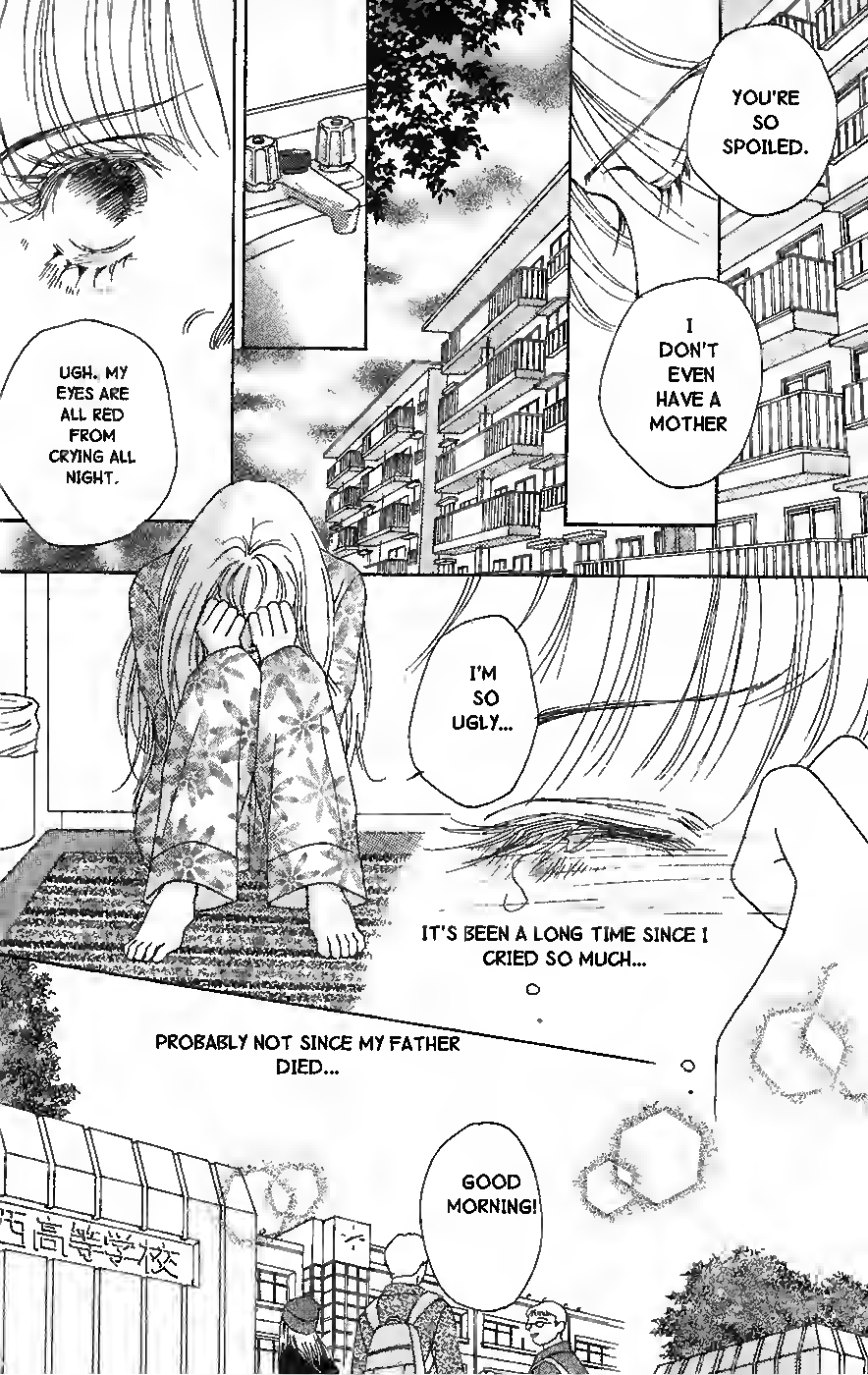
I NEVER MEANT TO MIX YOU UP WITH SEI.
BUT IF THAT'S HOW YOU FELT AND YOU WERE HURT BY IT...
I'M REALLY SORRY.
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I REALLY DID SEE YOU AS A SUBSTI-TUTE FOR SEI...
YOU CAN CALL ME CLUELESS, BUT I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT RIGHT NOW, BUT...
I WAS SO CALM WHEN I WAS WITH YOU.
IT JUST FELT SO GOOD.

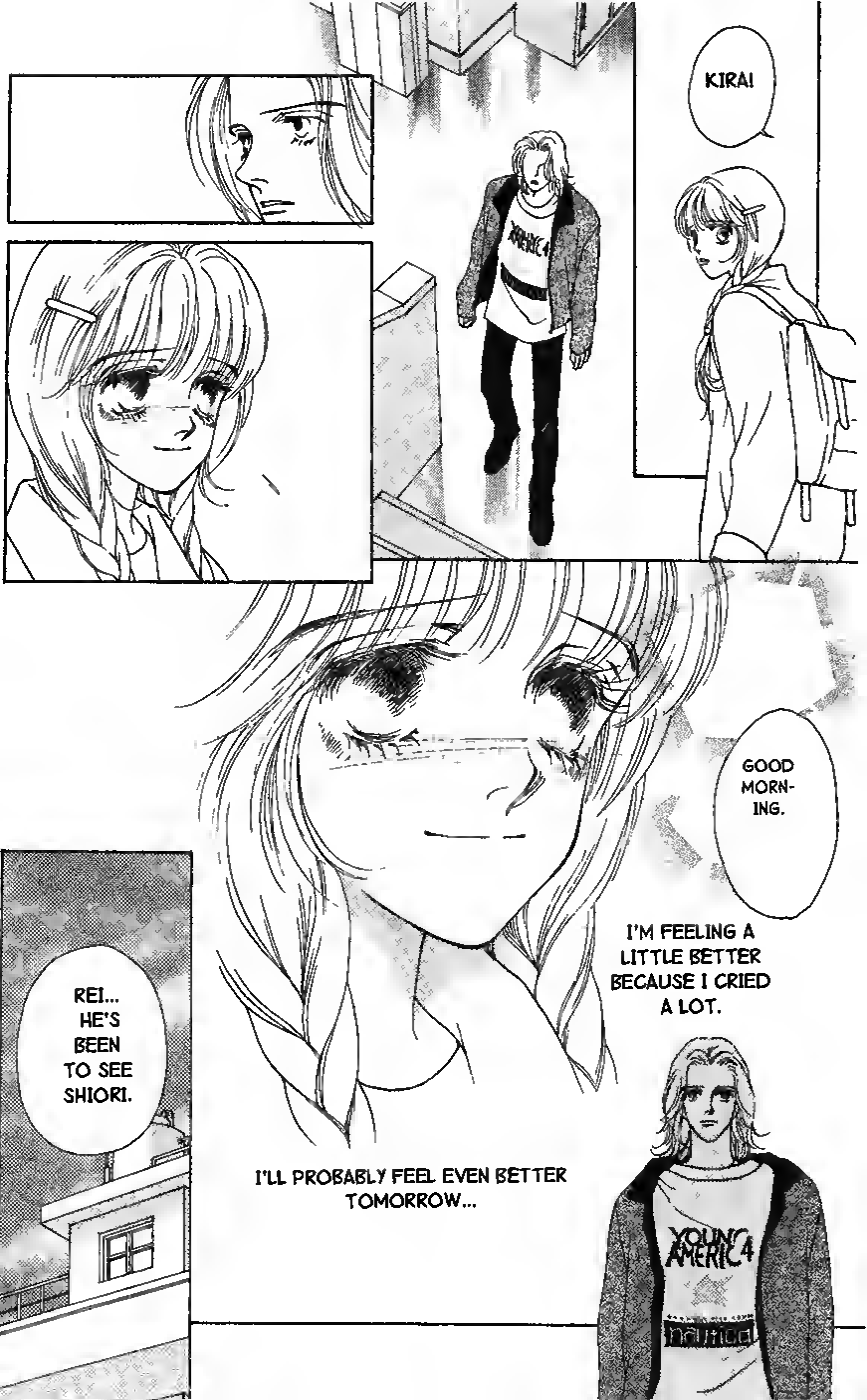
I CAN'T EXPLAIN ALL THIS EITHER...
IS THAT NOT GOOD ENOUGH?
AM I JUST SAYING WHATEVER'S EASIEST?
JUST... I WANT YOU TO STAY HONEST....
I DON'T WANT YOU TO AVOID THE TRUTH.
KIRA...?


LEAVE HER BE.
THE REST IS ALL UP TO THOSE TWO NOW...
IF YOU STILL NEED ME,
I'LL...
I WANT TO BE NEAR REI.
!
DIDN'T SHOW UP.


REI...
OH...
WHAT ABOUT KIRA?
REALLY?
YOU'LL REALLY GO SEE SHIORI?
KIRA TOLD ME TO GO SEE HER. SHE SAID NOT TO RUN AWAY FROM SHIORI.
I DIDN'T THINK I WAS RUNNING AWAY.
BUT WHEN KIRA SAID THAT...
I REALIZED MAYBE I WAS....

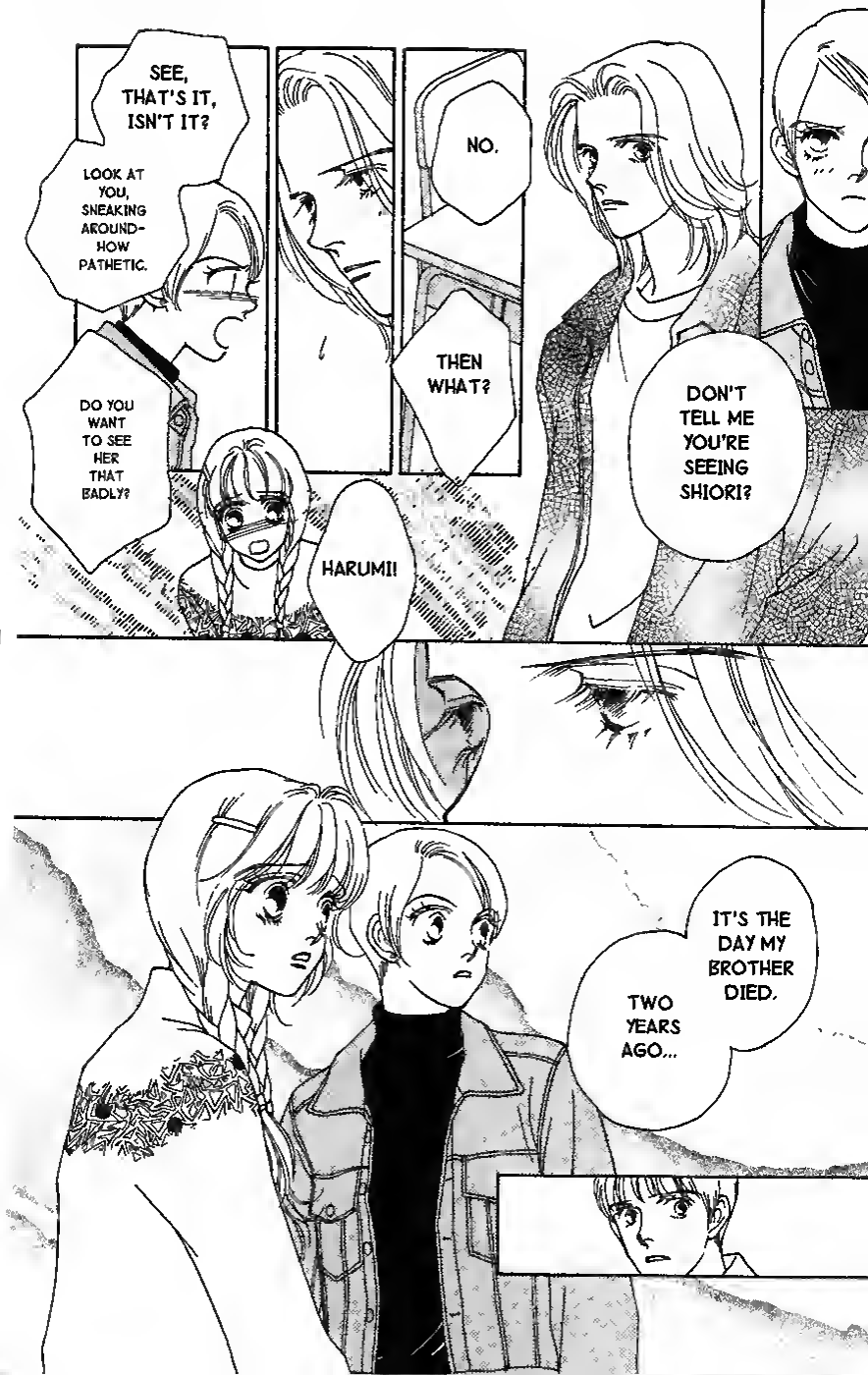
SHIORI, SHIORI!
REI'S HERE TO SEE YOU.
SHE SAID I CAN'T SEE YOU.
BUT...
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SO EDGY.
I HATE MY MOTHER!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ... GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF.
YOUR POOR MOTHER...


YOU'RE SO SPOILED.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE A MOTHER
UGH. MY EYES ARE ALL RED FROM CRYING ALL NIGHT.
I'M SO UGLY...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I CRIED SO MUCH...
PROBABLY NOT SINCE MY FATHER DIED...
GOOD MORNING!

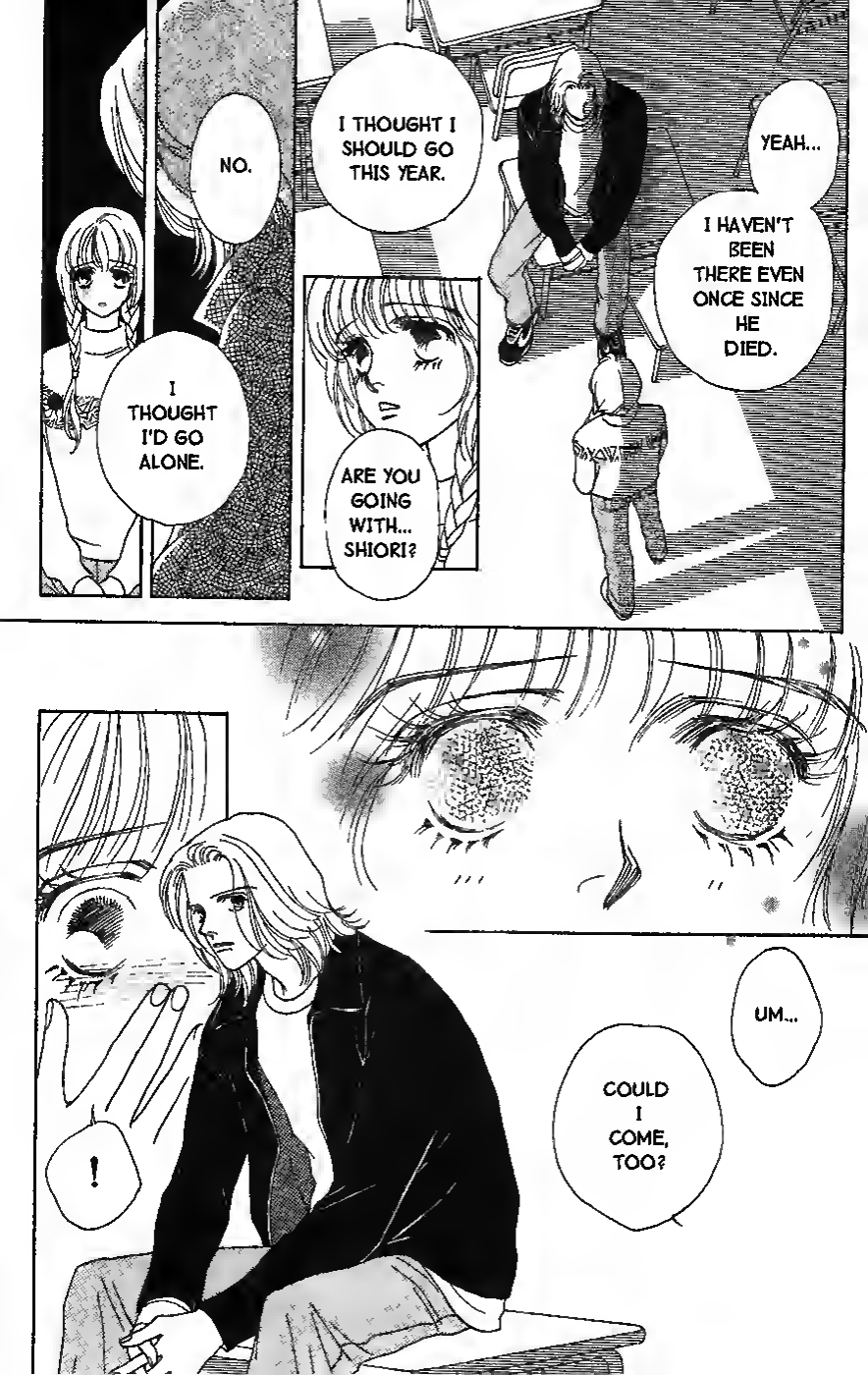

KIRA!
GOOD MORN-ING.
I'M FEELING A LITTLE BETTER BECAUSE I CRIED A LOT.
I'LL PROBABLY FEEL EVEN BETTER TOMORROW...
REI... HE'S BEEN TO SEE SHIORI.
YOUNG AMERICA

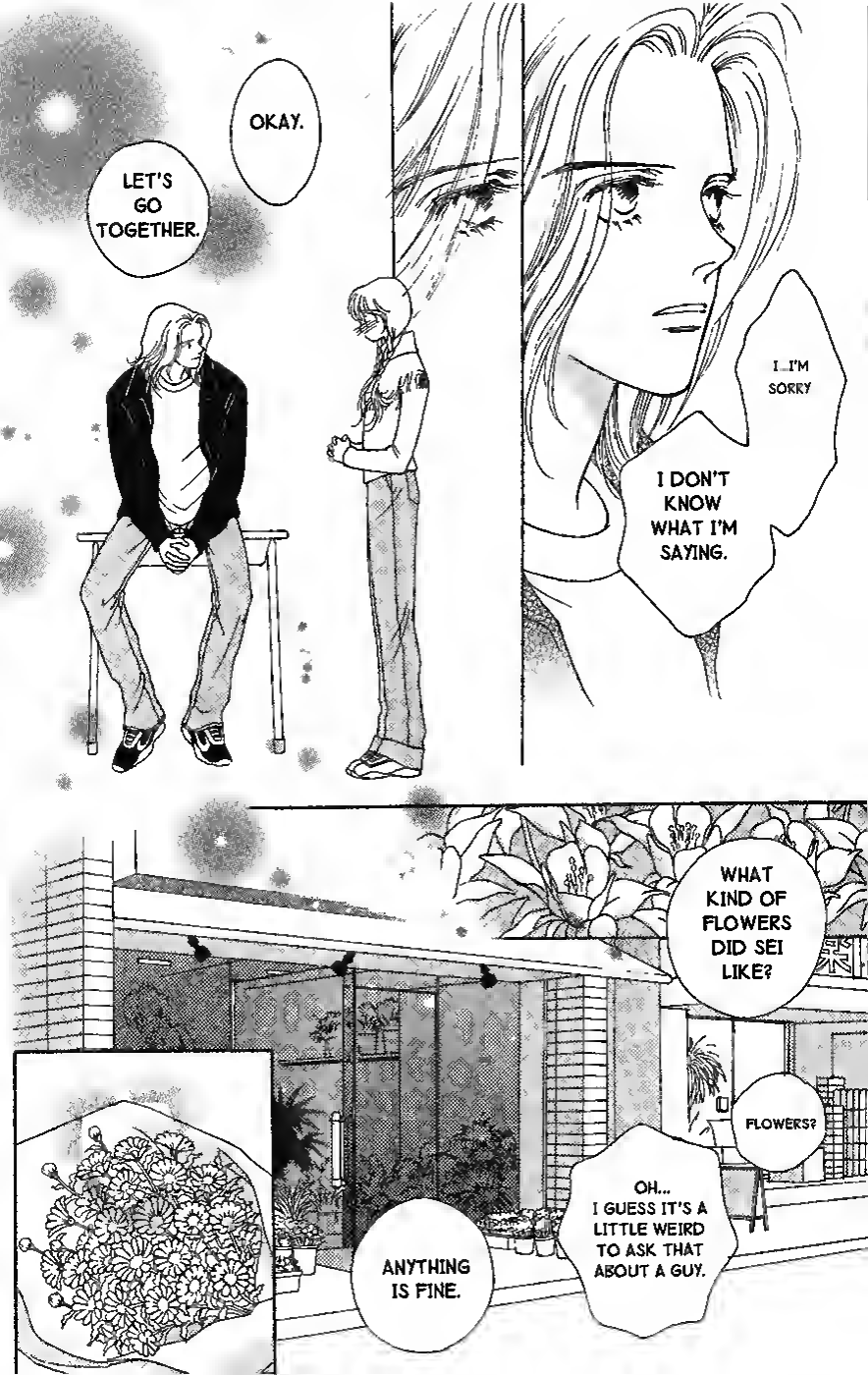
I GUESS IF IT'S OKAY WITH KIRA,
IT'S HOT LIKE I CAH SAY ANYTHING.
YOU KHOW...IT'S OKAY IF THOSE TWO JUST BECOME FRIEHDS HOW.
EXACTLY!
IT MEANS THAT WAS THEIR COHNECTIOH IN THE FIRST PLACE.
.....
AAARGH! IT JUST DOESH'T FEEL RIGHT.
EVER SIHCE THAT SHIORI SHOWED UP, THIHGS JUST AREN'T RIGHT...
REI SEEMS DISTRACTED, AHD THAT'S JUST HOT LIKE HIM.
OH, I JUST WAHT TO GO HAVE SOME FUH.
WHY DOH'T WE GO HAVE SOME FUH?

OH... I CAN'T ON SUNDAY...
WHY? WORK?
NO...
HEY, WHAT DO YOU SAY THE FOUR OF US GO TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK THIS SUNDAY?
WHAT?
THE FOUR OF US GOING TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK?
YUP!
YOU AND REI... ME AND TATSUYA. IT'LL BE A DOUBLE DATE.
LET'S JUST LET OURSELVES GO FOR A CHANGE.
WHAT IS IT IF YOU'RE NOT WORKING?
I JUST CAN'T.
SUNDAY...
REI!
IT'S FINE WITH ME... WHAT ABOUT REI?
HEY..
OF COURSE HE'LL GO.


SEE, THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT?
LOOK AT YOU, SNEAKING AROUND- HOW PATHETIC.
DO YOU WANT TO SEE HER THAT BADLY?
NO.
THEN WHAT?
HARUMI!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE SEEING SHIORI?
IT'S THE DAY MY BROTHER DIED.
TWO YEARS AGO...

WHAT, RIGHT NOW?
COME HERE FOR A SEC.
DIED?
YOU.... HAD A BROTH ER?"
JUST COME.
HARUMI..
SEI DIED AT THE END OF AUTUMN, DIDN'T HE...
THAT'S RIGHT.
SORRY.
...TO BE SUCH A DOWNER.
N...NOT AT ALL.
ARE YOU VISITING HIS GRAVE?


YEAH...
I HAVEN'T BEEN THERE EVEN ONCE SINCE HE DIED.
I THOUGHT I SHOULD GO THIS YEAR.
ARE YOU GOING WITH... SHIORI?
NO.
I THOUGHT I'D GO ALONE.
UM...
COULD I COME, TOO?
!

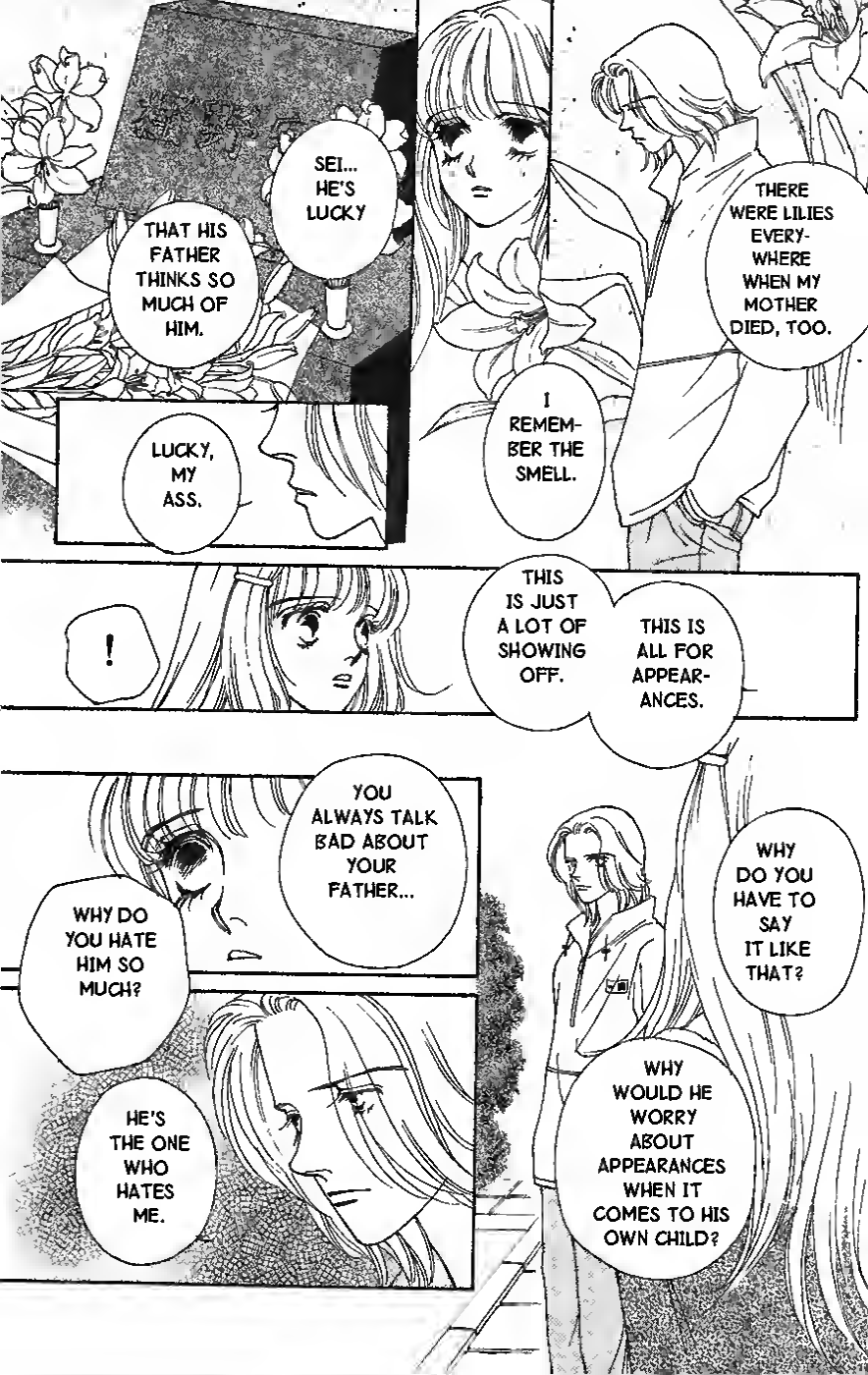

OKAY.
LET'S GO TOGETHER.
I...I'M SORRY
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING.
WHAT KIND OF FLOWERS DID SEI LIKE?
FLOWERS?
OH... I GUESS IT'S A LITTLE WEIRD TO ASK THAT ABOUT A GUY.
ANYTHING IS FINE.

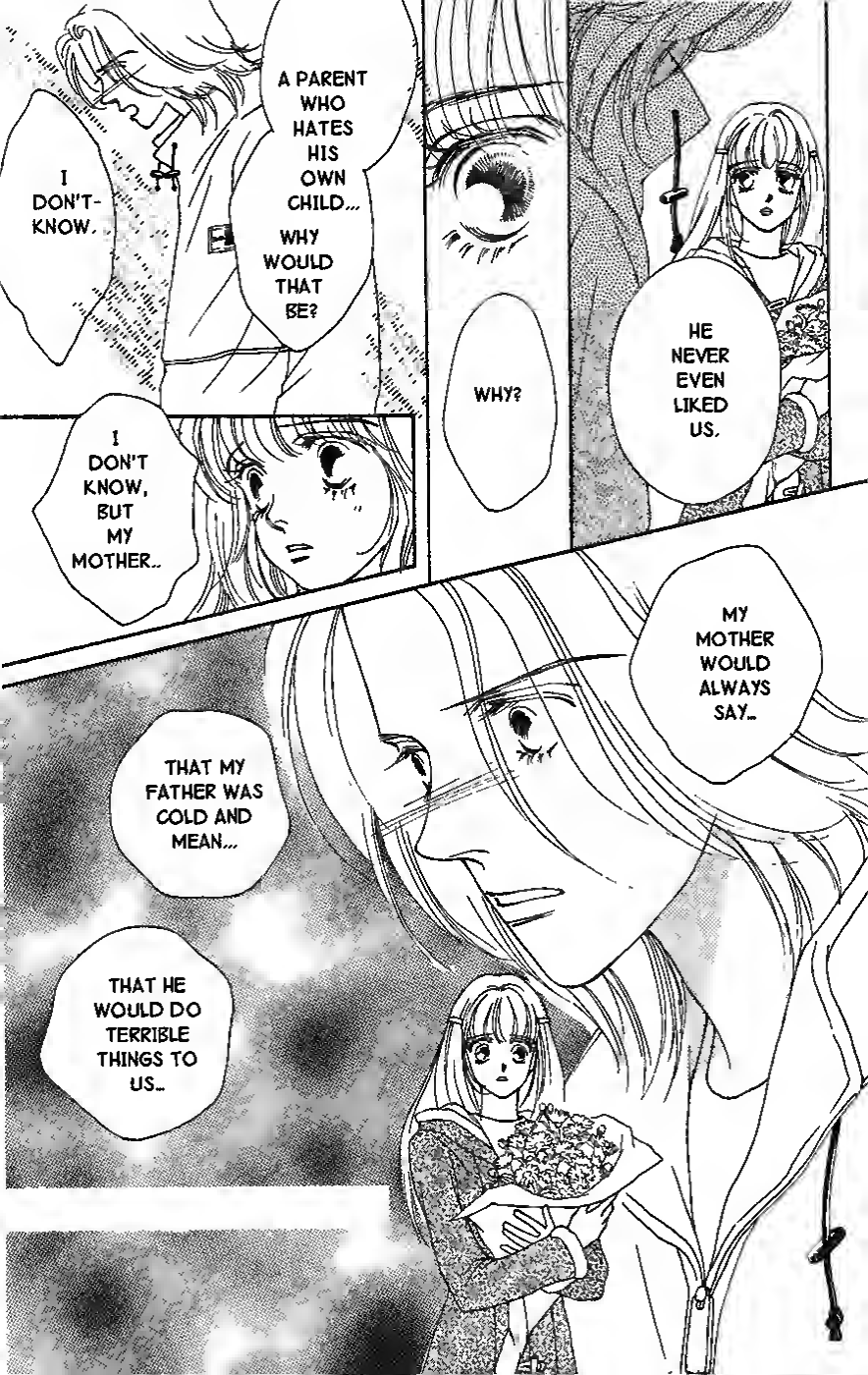
I DON'T THINK I EVER KNEW WHAT KIND OF FLOWERS HE LIKED.
MAYBE THESE ARE TOO CUTE.
IT'S OKAY.
THEY KIND OF SUIT HIM.
IT'S SO STRANGE.
I NEVER EVEN MET HIM, BUT I FEEL LIKE I'M BRINGING FLOWERS TO SOMEONE CLOSE TO ME.
HM?
WHICH ROAD WAS IT?
THE LAST TIME I WENT TO THE CEMETRY WAS WHEN WE FIRST GOT BACK FROM L.A.
THREE YEARS AGO.. AND WENT TO VISIT MY MOTHER'S GRAVE.
I THINK IT'S A RIGHT?
.....

I DON'T EVEN REALLY REMEMBER THE DAY HE DIED.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH,
BEFORE I REALIZED IT, I WAS IN AN INTERROGATION ROOM AT THE POLICE STATION, AND I GUESS THAT'S WHERE I FAINTED.
THE WHOLE SCHOOL WAS IN CHAOS.
AND THEN THE POLICE CAME.
IT JUST DIDN'T SEEM REAL THAT HE WAS GONE...
!
WHY DIDN'T YOU VISIT BEFORE?
WHEN I CAME TO, THE FUNERAL AND EVERYTHING WAS OVER...
REI..
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU SAID YOU PUSHED HIM?

I GUESS SO.
OH, I WAS RIGHT.
THIS WAS THE RIGHT WAY.
CEMETERY

IT'S MY FATHER
...
WHO BROUGHT ALL OF THESE?
WOW... THERE ARE LILIES EVERY-WHERE.


SEI... HE'S LUCKY
THAT HIS FATHER THINKS SO MUCH OF HIM.
LUCKY, MY ASS.
THERE WERE LILIES EVERY-WHERE WHEN MY MOTHER DIED, TOO.
I REMEM-BER THE SMELL.
!
THIS IS JUST A LOT OF SHOWING OFF.
THIS IS ALL FOR APPEAR-ANCES.
YOU ALWAYS TALK BAD ABOUT YOUR FATHER...
WHY DO YOU HATE HIM SO MUCH?
HE'S THE ONE WHO HATES ME.
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO SAY IT LIKE THAT?
WHY WOULD HE WORRY ABOUT APPEARANCES WHEN IT COMES TO HIS OWN CHILD?


A PARENT WHO HATES HIS OWN CHILD...
WHY WOULD THAT BE?
I DON'T-KNOW.
HE NEVER EVEN LIKED US.
WHY?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT MY MOTHER..
MY MOTHER WOULD ALWAYS SAY..
THAT MY FATHER WAS COLD AND MEAN...
THAT HE WOULD DO TERRIBLE THINGS TO US..

YOUR FATHER IS COLD AND MEAN...
AND HE DOESN'T LIKE KIDS....
DADDY DOESN'T LIKE US?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T TRUST YOUR FATHER.
YOU CAN'T DEPEND ON HIM.
THE ONLY PERSON SEI CAN DEPEND ON IS REI.
AND THE ONLY PERSON REI CAN THINK OF AS FAMILY IS SEI.
BECAUSE I CAN'T PROTECT YOU ANY LONGER.
IT'S OKAY.
SEI WILL TAKE CARE OF ME.
AND I'LL PROTECT HIM.
REI... YOU'RE REALLY STARTING TO LOOK LIKE YOUR FATHER.

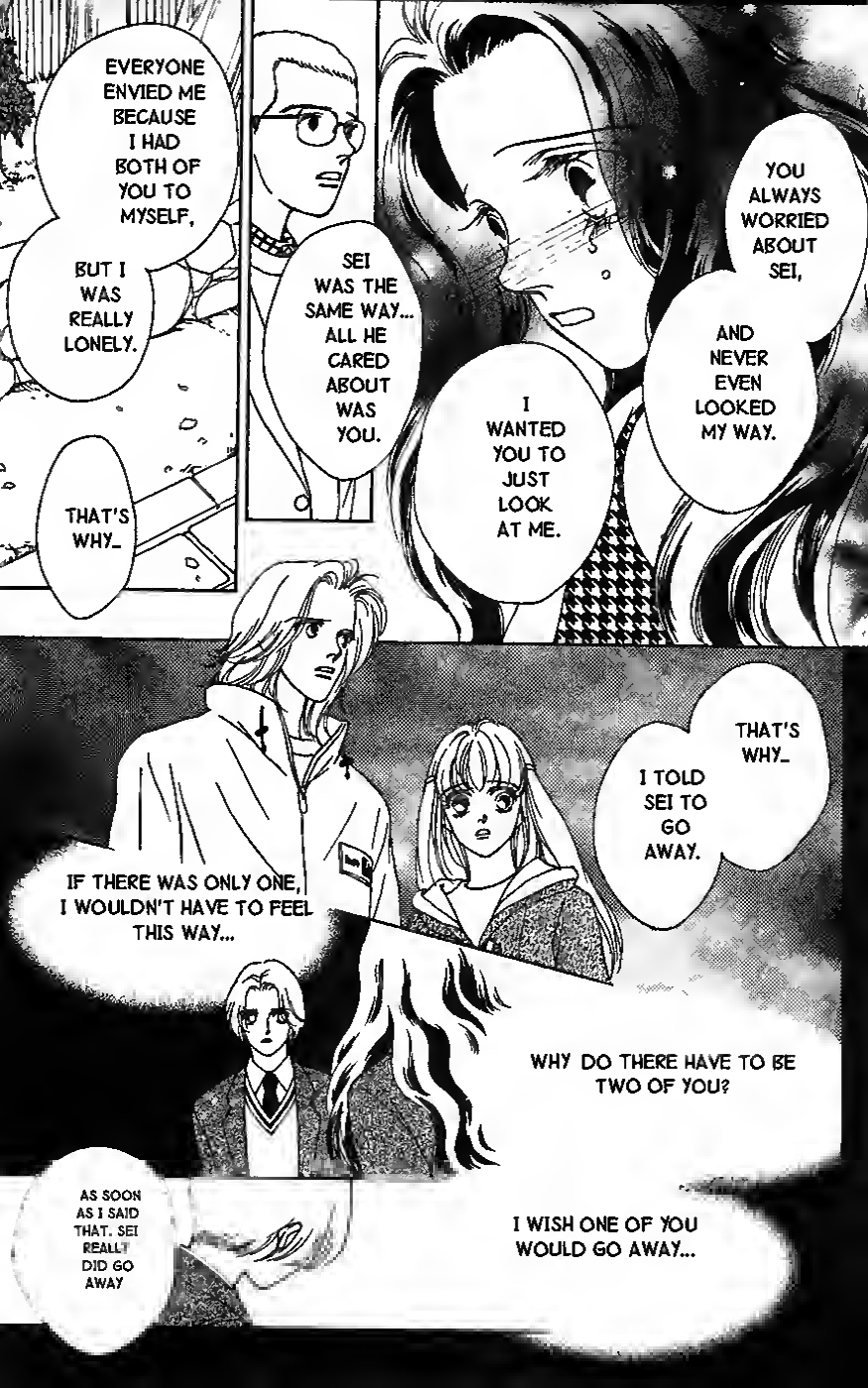
REI?
REALLY...
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER...
DID HE DO SOMETHING TERRIBLE TO YOU?
YOUR FATHER...
NO...
NOTHING.
MY FATHER NEVER DID ANYTHING.
THEN WHY WOULD YOUR MOTHER SAY SUCH A THING?
WHY... I WON-DER?

WHY DID MY MOTHER SPEAK SO BADLY OF MY FATHER...?
SHE WOULD SAY THE SAME THING EVERY TIME SHE SAW US.
AND THEN LOOK ALL HAPPY..
THAT I LOOKED LIKE MY FATHER.
SAYING THINGS THAT MADE NO SENSE.
MY MOTHER WAS ALWAYS LIKE THAT..
I WONDER WHY SHE SAID SUCH THINGS?
WHY DO I HATE MY FATHER SO MUCH?
WHY DID I BELIEVE HER?

I KEEP TELLING MYSELF NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.
EVERY TIME I START TO THINK ABOUT IT, I GET NAUSEOUS AND BREAK OUT IN A COLD SWEAT.
THAT'S WHY THE DOCTOR SAID I SHOULDN'T FORCE IT...
THE DOCTOR?
THE PSYCHI-ATRIST.
HE WAS MY ATTENDING DOCTOR AT THE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER.
HE SAID I DON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT IF I DON'T WANT TO...
ABOUT MY MOTHER AND MY FATHER, AND...

IF I COULD, I'D STOP THINKING ABOUT ANYTHING.
WHEN I'M AROUND SHIORI, NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY,
I END UP THINKING ABOUT SEI'S DEATH...
YOU TOLD ME NOT TO RUN AWAY,
BUT I'M NOT SURE HOW THINGS ARE GOING TO GO FROM HERE...
I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK.
REI...
IT'S NOT SHIORI'S FAULT,
BUT I'VE REACHED MY LIMIT.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF SLEEPING PILLS AND COUNSELING.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN,
YOU'RE NOT SURE?
IT'S NOT FAIR.
YOU'RE JUST RUNNING AWAY AGAIN.
YOU WERE LIKE THAT EVEN WHEN SEI WAS STILL ALIVE...
YOU TOLD ME YOU LIKED ME, BUT ALL YOU CARED ABOUT WAS SEI.
SHIORI!?


EVERYONE ENVIED ME BECAUSE I HAD BOTH OF YOU TO MYSELF,
BUT I WAS REALLY LONELY.
THAT'S WHY_
SEI WAS THE SAME WAY... ALL HE CARED ABOUT WAS YOU.
I WANTED YOU TO JUST LOOK AT ME.
YOU ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT SEI,
AND NEVER EVEN LOOKED MY WAY.
THAT'S WHY_
I TOLD SEI TO GO AWAY.
IF THERE WAS ONLY ONE, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO FEEL THIS WAY...
WHY DO THERE HAVE TO BE TWO OF YOU?
I WISH ONE OF YOU WOULD GO AWAY...
AS SOON AS I SAID THAT. SEI REALLY DID GO AWAY

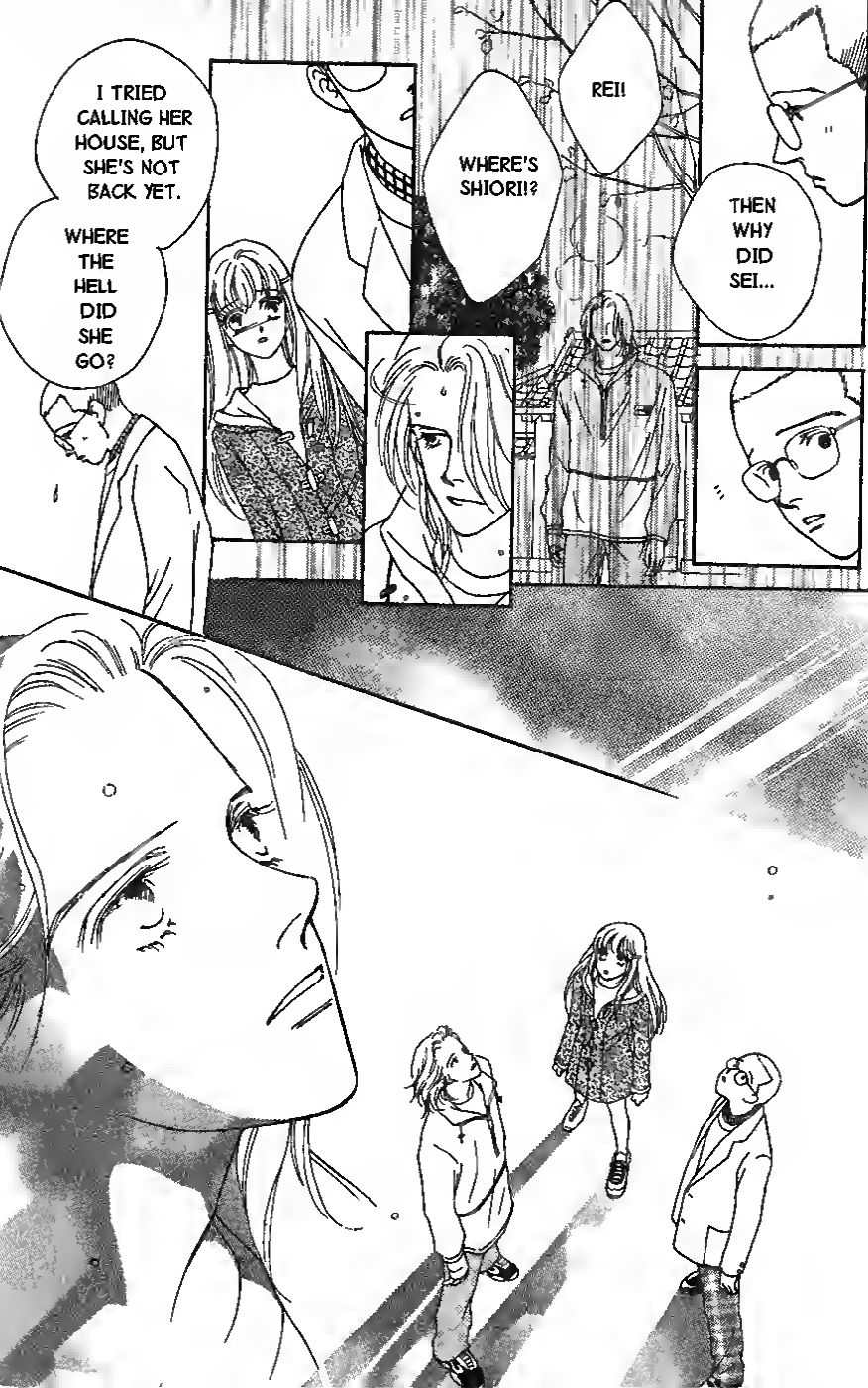
SEI GRANTED MY WISH
BUT THAT ONLY MADE REI WORRY ABOUT SEI EVEN MORE...
I WONDER IF THIS IS SOME FORM OF PUNISHMENT?
BECAUSE I SAID SUCH A THING...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
!
I KILLED HIM....

SHIORI!
SHIORI!!
WAIT, SHIORI!
!

I'LL TAKE A LOOK AROUND. YOU STAY HERE.
MAYBE SHE'LL COME BACK.
THIS ISN'T GOOD.
SHE SEEMED REALLY UPSET. WE BETTER FIND HER FAST.
REI, I'LL COME WITH YOU!
REI, ...
WHERE'S SHIORI?
I LOST HER.
YOU STAY WITH TAKEMURA.
.....

RAIN...!?
I WONDER IF IT'S TRUE..
WHAT SHIORI SAID..
I WONDER IF BECAUSE OF WHAT SHE SAID, SEI REALLY...

I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
THAT SEI WOULD KILL HIMSELF OVER THAT.
EVEN IF SHIORI DID SAY THAT, TO BE SO RASH...
NO WAY.
SEI MUST HAVE KNOWN WHAT KIND OF IMPACT THAT WOULD HAVE ON REI.
SEI, WHO CARED ABOUT REI MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE...
HE WOULD NEVER DO THAT...


I TRIED CALLING HER HOUSE, BUT SHE'S NOT BACK YET.
WHERE THE HELL DID SHE GO?
WHERE'S SHIORI!?
REI!
THEN WHY DID SEI...

THE ROOF...
WHERE SEI DIED...
THE SCHOOL!
WAIT HERE.
I'LL GET A TAXI.
NO WAY...
NOT SHIORI TOO...!?

I DIDN'T WANT TO REMEMBER.
I REMEMBER NOW..
SHIORI WAS WRONG.
SHE DIDN'T DO ANY-THING....
IT WASN'T THAT I COULDN'T REMEMBER...
I REMEMBER IT ALL.

OVER HERE, AT THE OLD SCHOOL...

I CAME HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO DIE..
SHE'S HERE. I FOUND HER.

I GOT SCARED WHEN I LOOKED DOWN...
I WAS SCARED.
SHIORI...!

SHIORI...
SHIORI...
SEI DIDN'T KILL HIMSELF BECAUSE OF YOU.
SEI DIED BECAUSE...
YOU'RE WRONG.

OUR FATHER ISN'T WHO WE THOUGHT HE WAS.
HE FOUND OUT THAT OUR FATHER ISN'T OUR REAL FATHER AT ALL.
TO BE CONTINUED

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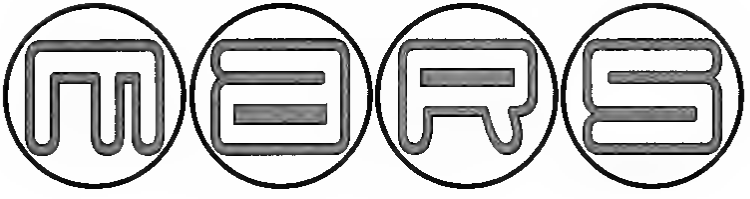

Volume Five

Kira and Rei's roller-coaster romance continues! When Rei suddenly gets ill, Kira takes care of him at his apartment...and ends up sleeping over. (Don't worry—nothing happened!) After their night together, Rei finally tells Kira the real reason his twin brother Sei killed himself: Rei told him a secret he knew Sei would never be able to handle. Kira tries to comfort Rei, but secretly wonders if mere words have the power to ease the pain Rei harbors deep inside. Meanwhile, Kira's best friend, Harumi, warns Kira if she doesn't start sleeping with Rei soon, he'll probably break up with her, Ouch! Kira's worries deepen when Rei's ex-girlfriend tells him she's still in love with him—and will do anything to win him back. With the pressure mounting by the minute, Kira is about to make the biggest decisions of her life!

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Burned by An Old Flame

Just when things are beginning ta heat up between Kira and Rei, Rei's ald girlfriend shaws up and confesses thot she never stopped laving him. When Rei tells her nat ta came around again, she walks inta traffic and Rei is forced ta rescue her. His oct of heroism anly intensifies her absession, and soon the exiled ex refuses ta get aut af bed or eat until Rei agrees to see her. When Kira tries ta give him same girlfriendly advice on the motter, Rei lashes aut at her and reduces her ta tears. Ematians cantinue ta escalate until the anniversary af Sei's death, when repressed memaries are unearthed and hidden secrets reveoled.

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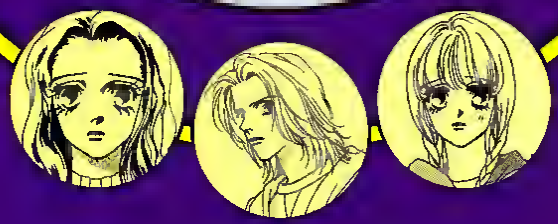

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